Overview

Useful For
Recommended first-line test for detection of thyrotropin receptor antibodies

The following situations:

- Differential diagnosis of etiology of thyrotoxicosis in patients with ambiguous clinical findings and/or contraindicated (eg, pregnant or breast-feeding) or nondiagnostic thyroid radioisotope scans
- Diagnosis of clinically suspected Graves disease (GD) (eg, extrathyroidal manifestation of GD include endocrine exophthalmos, pretibial myxedema, thyroid acropachy) in patients with normal thyroid function tests
- Determining the risk of neonatal thyrotoxicosis in a fetus of a pregnant female with active or past active GD
- Differential diagnosis of gestational thyrotoxicosis versus first trimester manifestation or recurrence of Graves’ disease
- Assessing the risk of GD relapse after antithyroid drug treatment

Method Name
Electrochemiluminescencelmmunoassay

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Serum

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation:

1. **For 12 hours before specimen collection do not** take multivitamins or dietary supplements containing biotin (vitamin B7), which is commonly found in hair, skin, and nail supplements and multivitamins.

2. Patient should not be receiving heparin treatment.

Container/Tube:

- **Preferred:** Red top
- **Acceptable:** Serum gel

Specimen Volume: 1 mL

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [General Request](#) (T239) with the specimen.
Test Definition: THYRO
Thyrotropin Receptor Ab, S

Specimen Minimum Volume
0.75 mL

Reject Due To

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross hemolysis</th>
<th>Reject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross lipemia</td>
<td>OK</td>
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Specimen Stability Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
Autoimmune thyroid disease is characterized by the presence of autoantibodies against various thyroid components, namely the thyrotropin receptor, thyroid peroxidase, and thyroglobulin, as well as by an inflammatory cellular infiltrate of variable severity within the gland.

Among the autoantibodies found in autoimmune thyroid disease, thyrotropin receptor autoantibodies (TRAb) are most closely associated with disease pathogenesis. All forms of autoimmune thyrotoxicosis (Graves disease; GD, Hashitoxicosis, neonatal thyrotoxicosis) are caused by the production of stimulating TRAb-. These autoantibodies, also known as long-acting-thyroid-stimulator (LATS) or thyroid-stimulating immunoglobulins (TSI), bind to the receptor and transactivate it, leading to stimulation of the thyroid gland independent of the normal feedback-regulated thyrotropin (TSH) stimulation.

Some patients with GD also have TRAb, which do not transactivate the thyrotropin receptor. The balance between stimulating and blocking antibodies, as well as their individual titers, is felt to be a determinant of GD severity. Some patients with autoimmune hypothyroidism also have evidence of either blocking TRAb or, rarely, TSI.

TRAb may be detected before autoimmune thyrotoxicosis becomes biochemically or clinically manifest. Since none of the treatments for GD are aimed at the underlying disease process, but rather ablate thyroid tissue or block thyroid hormone synthesis, TSI may persist after apparent clinical cure. This is of particular relevance for pregnant women with a history of GD that was treated with thyroid-ablative therapy. Some of these women may continue to produce TSI. Since TSI are IgG antibodies, they can cross the placental barrier causing neonatal thyrotoxicosis.

While the gold standard for thyroid-stimulating immunoglobulins is the bioassay (see TSI / Thyroid-Stimulating Immunoglobulin [TSI], Serum), the TRAb test has a shorter turnaround time, less analytical variability, and is less expensive.

Reference Values
< or =1.75 IU/L

Interpretation
The sensitivity and specificity of an elevated thyrotropin receptor antibody (TRAb) test for Graves disease (GD)
Test Definition: THYRO
Thyrotropin Receptor Ab, S

diagnosis depends on whether patients have disease treated with antithyroid drugs or clinically active, untreated disease. Based on a study that included specimens from 436 apparently healthy individuals, 210 patients with thyroid diseases without diagnosis of GD, and 102 patients with untreated GD, a decision limit of 1.75 IU/L showed a sensitivity of 97% and a specificity of 99% for detection of GD.(1) In healthy individuals and in patients with thyroid disease without diagnosis of GD, the upper limit of antithyrotropin receptor values are 1.22 IU/L and 1.58 IU/L, respectively (97.5th percentiles). A Mayo study of 115 patients, including 42 patients with GD, showed a sensitivity of 95% and a specificity of 97% for detection of GD at a decision limit of 1.75 IU/L.

Assessment of TRAb status is particularly relevant in women who have undergone thyroid ablative therapy or are on active antithyroid treatment and, therefore, no longer display biochemical or clinical evidence of thyrotoxicosis. Significant neonatal thyrotoxicosis is likely if a pregnant woman with a history of GD has TRAb concentrations of more than 3.25 IU/L during the last trimester, regardless of her clinical remission status. Lesser elevations are only occasionally associated with neonatal thyrotoxicosis.

Gestational thyrotoxicosis, which is believed to be due to a combination of human chorionic gonadotropin cross-reactivity on the thyrotropin receptor and transient changes in thyroid hormone protein binding, is only very rarely associated with an elevated TRAb test. Finding an elevated test result in this setting usually suggests underlying GD.

An elevated TRAb test at the conclusion of a course of antithyroid drug treatment is highly predictive of relapse of GD. However, the converse, a normal TRAb test, is not predictive of prolonged remission.

Cautions

In rare cases, interference due to extremely high titers of antibodies to streptavidin and ruthenium can occur.

Supportive Data

A Mayo method comparison study between this assay and the Kronus TSH Receptor Antibody binding inhibition assay showed an overall agreement between the assays of 96.5% and a calculated Kappa statistic of 0.93.

Clinical Reference


Performance

Method Description

The Roche TSH/thyrotropin receptor antibody (TRAb) assay is a competitive assay using electrochemiluminescence detection. Patient specimen is treated with a reagent buffer consisting of a pre-formed immunocomplex of solubilized porcine thyrotropin (TSH) receptor and biotinylated anti-porcine TSH receptor mouse monoclonal antibody. TRAb in patient's serum are allowed to interact with the TSH receptor complex. After addition of streptavidin-coated microparticles and a human thyroid-stimulating monoclonal autoantibody (M22) labeled with a ruthenium complex, bound TRAb are detected by their ability to inhibit the binding of labeled M22. The entire complex becomes bound to
the solid phase via interaction of biotin and streptavidin. This reaction mixture is aspirated into measuring cell where
the bound microparticles are captured onto the electrode surface and unbound substances are removed. Voltage is
applied to the electrode inducing a chemiluminescent emission, which is then measured against a calibration curve
to determine the amount of thyrotropin receptor antibody in the patient specimen. (Package insert: Elecsys Anti-
TSHR. Roche Diagnostics; V 1.0 English 09/2020)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed

Monday through Friday; 5 a.m.-12 a.m.

Saturday; 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Analytic Time

Same day/1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time

3 days

Specimen Retention Time

3 months

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

Fees and Codes

Fees

- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their Regional Manager. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification

This test has been cleared, approved or is exempt by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is used per
manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with
CLIA requirements.

CPT Code Information

83520

LOINC® Information

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<td>Thyrotropin Receptor Ab, S</td>
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