Overview

Useful For
Diagnosis of Lyme disease

Reflex Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Reporting Name</th>
<th>Available Separately</th>
<th>Always Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LYWB</td>
<td>Lyme Disease Ab, Immunoblot, S</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Testing Algorithm

If Lyme disease serology is positive, then Lyme disease antibody confirmation (by Western blot) will be performed at an additional charge.

See Acute Tick-Borne Disease Testing Algorithm in Special Instructions.

Special Instructions
- Acute Tick-Borne Disease Testing Algorithm

Method Name
Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Serum

Specimen Required

Supplies: Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T465)

Collection Container/Tube:

Preferred: Serum gel

Acceptable: Red top

Submission Container/Tube: 5-mL aliquot tube (T465)

Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL

Forms
If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send 1 of the following forms with the specimen:

- **General Request** (T239)
- **Microbiology Test Request** (T244)

## Specimen Minimum Volume
0.4 mL

### Reject Due To

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross hemolysis</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross lipemia</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Heat inactivated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Specimen Stability Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td>Refrigerated (preferred)</td>
<td>10 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen</td>
<td>30 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Clinical and Interpretive

### **Clinical Information**

Lyme disease (LD) is caused by infection with a member of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato complex, which includes *B burgdorferi* sensu stricto (herein referred to as *B burgdorferi*), *B afzelii*, and *B garinii*. Among these species, *B burgdorferi* is the most frequent cause of LD in North America. These tick-borne spirochetes are transmitted to humans through the bite of *Ixodes* species ticks. Endemic areas for Lyme disease in the United States correspond with the distribution of 2 tick species, *Ixodes scapularis* (Northeastern and Upper Midwestern US) and *I pacificus* (West Coast US).

Transmission of LD-associated *Borrelia* requires at least 36 hours of tick attachment. Approximately 80% of infected individuals will develop a unique expanding skin lesion with a central zone of clearing, referred to as erythema migrans (EM; stage 1). In the absence of treatment, patients may progress to early disseminated disease (stage 2), which is characterized by neurologic manifestations (eg, meningitis, cranial neuropathy, radiculoneuropathy) and is often associated with *B garinii* infection. Patients with late LD often present with intermittent or persistent arthralgia, most often associated with *B burgdorferi* infection, or with acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans (ACA), typically due to infection with *B afzelii*.

Diagnosis of LD is currently based on a 2-tiered serologic testing algorithm, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and involves an initial screening assay for detection of antibodies to LD-causing *Borrelia* species. Samples that are screen positive or equivocal are subsequently reflexed for supplemental assessment using a *B burgdorferi* immunoblot for detection of IgM- and IgG-class antibodies to specific *B burgdorferi* antigens.

Importantly, while serologic assessment for LD may be negative in the early weeks following infection, over 90% of patients with later stages of infection are seropositive by serology, which remains the diagnostic method of choice for
Test Definition: LYME
Lyme Disease Serology, S

this disease.

**Reference Values**

Negative

Reference values apply to all ages.

**Interpretation**

Negative: No evidence of antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi* detected. False-negative results may occur in recently infected patients (< or =2 weeks) due to low or undetectable antibody levels to *B burgdorferi*. If recent exposure is suspected, a second sample should be collected and tested in 2 to 4 weeks.

Equivocal: Not diagnostic. Supplemental testing by immunoblot has been ordered by reflex.

Positive: Not diagnostic. Supplemental testing by immunoblot has been ordered by reflex.

**Cautions**

A negative result does not exclude the possibility of infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Patients in the early stages of Lyme disease and those who have been treated with antibiotics may not exhibit detectable antibody titers. Patients with clinical history, signs, or symptoms suggestive of Lyme disease should be retested in 2 to 4 weeks in the event that the initial test result is negative.

A positive result is not definitive evidence of infection with *B burgdorferi*. It is possible that other disease conditions may produce artifactual reactivity in the assay (eg, infectious mononucleosis, syphilis). All equivocal or positive results should be supplemented immunoblot testing for IgM- and IgG-class antibodies in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory. Directors (CDC/ASTPHLD) recommendations.

Patients infected with other members of the *B burgdorferi* sensu lato complex, including *B garinii*, *B afzelii*, and *B mayonii* will be detected by this assay; however, they cannot be differentiated.

This test should not be performed as a screening procedure for the general population. The predictive value of a positive or negative result depends on the prevalence of analyte (antibodies present to VlsE1 and pepC10 antigens) in a given population. Testing should only be performed when clinical evidence suggests the diagnosis of *Borrelia* infection or related etiological conditions observed by the physician.

This test will not distinguish results that are both IgG and IgM positive from results that are either IgG or IgM positive.

Lyme serology should not be used for treatment monitoring as IgG can remain for years postresolution of infection. Instead, monitoring resolution of symptoms in response to treatment is recommended.

**Clinical Reference**


Test Definition: LYME
Lyme Disease Serology, S

Performance

Method Description
The first-tier Lyme disease screening enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) used is the Zeus ELISA Borrelia VlsE1/pepC10 IgG/IgM test system (Branchburg, NJ). The Zeus ELISA Borrelia VlsE1/pepC10 IgG/IgM test system is designed to detect IgG- and IgM-class antibodies (not differentiated by the assay in the final result) in human sera to VlsE1 and pepC10 antigens. Diluted test sera are incubated in antigen coated microwells. Any antigen-specific antibody in the sample will bind to the immobilized antigen. The plate is washed to remove unbound antibody and other serum components. Peroxidase conjugated goat antihuman IgG and IgM are added to the wells and the plate is incubated. The conjugate will react with IgG and IgM antibodies immobilized on the plate. The wells are washed to remove unreacted conjugate. The microwells containing immobilized peroxidase conjugate are incubated with peroxidase substrate solution. Hydrolysis of the substrate by peroxidase produces a color change. After a period of time the reaction is stopped and the color intensity of the solution is measured photometrically. The color intensity of the solution depends upon the antibody concentration in the original test sample. (Package insert: Borrelia VlsE1/pepC10 IgG/IgM Test System, Zeus Scientific, Inc., Branchburg, NJ. Rev. Date 12/18/2017; package insert: Immunetics C6 B burgdorferi [Lyme] ELISA Kit, Immunetics, Inc, Boston, MA 02210-2377, 2013)

PDF Report
No

Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed
Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.

Analytic Time
1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time
4 days

Specimen Retention Time
14 days

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 or approved 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
86618
86617 x 2-Lyme disease confirmation (if appropriate)

**LOINC® Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Test Order Name</th>
<th>Order LOINC Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LYME</td>
<td>Lyme Disease Serology, S</td>
<td>20449-5</td>
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