

Overview

Useful For
Identification of germ cell tumors

Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
IHTOI	IHC Initial, Tech Only	No	No
IHTOA	IHC Additional, Tech Only	No	No

Testing Algorithm
[For the initial technical component only immunohistochemical \(IHC\) stain performed, the appropriate bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged \(IHTOI\). For each additional technical component only IHC stain performed, an additional bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged \(IHTOA\).](#)

Method Name
Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
TECHONLY

Ordering Guidance
This test includes only technical performance of the stain (no pathologist interpretation is performed). If diagnostic consultation by a pathologist is required order PATHC / Pathology Consultation.

Shipping Instructions
Attach the green pathology address label and the pink Immunostain Technical Only label included in the kit to the outside of the transport container.

Specimen Required
Specimen Type: Tissue
Supplies: Immunostain Technical Only Envelope (T693)
Container/Tube: Immunostain Technical Only Envelope
Preferred:

-Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block
OR
-2 Unstained, positively charged glass slides (25- x 75- x 1-mm) per test ordered; sections 4-microns thick
Acceptable: None

Digital Image Access

- 1. Information on accessing digital images of immunohistochemical (IHC) stains and the manual requisition form can be accessed through this website: <https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/ihc-stains/>
- 2. Clients ordering stains using a manual requisition form will not have access to digital images.
- 3. Clients wishing to access digital images must place the order for IHC stains electronically. Information regarding digital imaging can be accessed through this website: <https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/ihc-stains/#FAQ>

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Immunohistochemical \(IHC\)/In Situ Hybridization \(ISH\) Stains Request](#) (T763) with the specimen.

Reject Due To

Wet/frozen tissue Cytology smears Nonformalin fixed tissue Nonparaffin embedded tissue Noncharged slides ProbeOn slides Snowcoat slides	Reject
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Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
TECHONLY	Ambient (preferred)		
	Refrigerated		

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Octamer-binding transcription factor 3/4 (OCT4), also known as POU5F1, is a transcription factor expressed by

embryonal stem cells and germ cells. Staining for OCT4 can aid in the diagnosis of testicular or ovarian germ cell tumors; it is highly specific for germ cell neoplasia, especially seminomas.

Interpretation

This test does not include pathologist interpretation, only technical performance of the stain. If interpretation is required, order PATHC / Pathology Consultation for a full diagnostic evaluation or second opinion of the case.

The positive and negative controls are verified as showing appropriate immunoreactivity.

Interpretation of this test should be performed in the context of the patient's clinical history and other diagnostic tests by a qualified pathologist.

Cautions

Age of a cut paraffin section can affect immunoreactivity. Stability thresholds vary widely among published literature and are antigen dependent. Best practice is for paraffin sections to be cut within 6 weeks.

The charge of glass slides can be affected by environmental factors and subsequently may alter slide staining. Sending unsuitable glass slides can result in inconsistent staining due to poor slide surface chemistry.

Best practices for storage of positively charged slides:

- Minimize time slides are stored after being unpackaged
- Limit exposure to high humidity and heat
- Minimize exposure to plastics

Clinical Reference

1. Zhao FQ. Octamer-binding transcription factors: genomics and functions. *Front Biosci.* 2013;18:1051-1071
2. Cheng L, Sung MT, Cossu-rocca P, et al. OCT4: biological functions and clinical applications as a marker of germ cell neoplasia. *J Pathol.* 2007;211(1):1-9
3. Jung SM, Chu PH, Shiu TF, et al. Expression of OCT4 in the primary germ cell tumors and thymoma in the mediastinum. *Appl Immunohistochem Mol Morphol.* 2006;14(3):273-275
4. Lau SK, Chang KL. OCT4: a sensitive and specific immunohistochemical marker for metastatic germ cell tumors. *Adv Anat Pathol.* 2006;13(2):76-79
5. Magaki S, Hojat SA, Wei B, So A, Yong WH. An introduction to the performance of immunohistochemistry. *Methods Mol Biol.* 2019;1897:289-298. doi:10.1007/978-1-4939-8935-5_25

Performance**Method Description**

Immunohistochemistry on sections of paraffin-embedded tissue.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Friday

Report Available

1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

Until staining is complete.

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

Fees & 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 account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

Test Classification

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US 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

88342-TC, primary
88341-TC, if additional IHC

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
OCT4	OCT3/4 IHC, Tech Only	Order only;no result

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
70835	OCT3/4 IHC, Tech Only	Bill only; no result