

Overview

Useful For

Aiding in the diagnosis of neurosyphilis

Method Name

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

Flocculation/Agglutination

NY State Available

No

Specimen

Specimen Type

CSF

Specimen Required

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

**Collection Container/Tube:** Sterile vial

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Submit specimen collected in vial 2 if possible. If not, note which vial from which the aliquot was obtained.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.2 mL

Reject Due To

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Gross hemolysis | Reject |
| Gross lipemia   | Reject |

Specimen Stability Information

| Specimen Type | Temperature        | Time    | Special Container |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|
| CSF           | Frozen (preferred) | 14 days |                   |
|               | Refrigerated       | 14 days |                   |

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

The VRDL assay is a nontreponemal serologic test for syphilis that uses a cardiolipin-cholesterol-lecithin antigen to detect reaginic antibodies.

The presence of neurosyphilis in untreated patients can be detected by the presence of pleocytosis, elevated protein, and a positive VDRL result.

Reference Values

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

Negative

Reference values apply to all ages.

Interpretation

A positive VDRL on spinal fluid is highly specific for neurosyphilis.

Cautions

The VDRL test using spinal fluid specimens yields a high percentage of false-negative results.

Clinical Reference

1. Miller JN. Value and limitations of nontreponemal and treponemal tests in the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis. Clin Obstet Gynecol. 1975;18(1):191-203

2. Radolf JD, Tramont EC, Salazar JC. Syphilis (*Treponema pallidum*). In: Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020:2865-2892

Performance

Method Description

The VDRL antigen and spinal fluid are mixed on a 180 RPM rotator. The antigen, a cardiolipin-lecithin coated cholesterol particle, flocculates in the presence of reagin.(US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Communicable Diseases Center, Venereal Disease Program: Manual of Tests for Syphilis, Centers for Disease Control. 1969; Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Saturday

Report Available

1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville Clinical Lab

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

86593

LOINC® Information

| Test ID | Test Order Name | Order LOINC® Value |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|
| VDSFQ   | VDRL Titer, CSF | 31146-4            |

| Result ID | Test Result Name | Result LOINC® Value |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| 65036     | VDRL Titer, CSF  | 31146-4             |