

Powassan Virus, RNA, Molecular Detection, PCR, Serum

Test ID: POWVS

Useful for:

- Rapid testing for Powassan virus RNA (lineage 1 and lineage 2) using serum specimens.
- An adjunctive test to serology for detection of early Powassan virus infection (ie, first few days after symptom onset). The Powassan virus polymerase chain reaction result may remain positive for a longer time in urine than in blood, serum, and cerebrospinal fluid (7 days or more).
- This assay **should not be used for** screening asymptomatic individuals and should only be used to test patients with signs and symptoms of Powassan virus disease.

Methods:

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Reference Values:

Negative

Specimen Requirements:

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Serum gel

Acceptable: Red top

Submission Container: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL

Collection Instructions: 1. Centrifuge and aliquot the serum into a plastic vial within 6 hours of collection.
2. Label specimen as serum

Minimum Volume: 0.3 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days
	Frozen	7 days

Cautions:

- The sensitivity of the assay is dependent upon the time of illness onset in which the specimen is collected. Polymerase chain reaction testing has the greatest utility when used within the first few days of symptom onset.

- A negative test does not exclude infection with Powassan virus. Therefore, the results obtained should be used in conjunction with clinical findings and serologic test results to make an accurate diagnosis.
- This assay detects both viable and nonviable virus. Test performance depends on viral load in the specimen and may not correlate with cell culture performed on the same specimen.

CPT Code:

87798

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Friday **Report Available:** Same day / 1 to 5 days

Questions

Contact Dunisha Messmer, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.