

***Babesia* species, Molecular Detection, PCR, Blood**

Test ID: BABPB

Useful for:

Initial screening or confirmatory testing for suspected babesiosis during the acute febrile stage of infection in patients from endemic areas, especially when Giemsa-stained peripheral blood smears do not reveal any organisms, or the organism morphology is inconclusive.

Methods:

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)/DNA Probe Hybridization

Reference Values:

Negative (Reference values apply to all ages)

Specimen Requirements:

Container/Tube:	Lavender top (EDTA)
Specimen Volume:	1 mL
Collection Instructions:	Send whole blood specimen in original tube. Do not aliquot.
Minimum Volume:	0.5 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Whole Blood EDTA	Refrigerated	7 days

Cautions:

While this assay is designed to detect symptomatic infection with *Babesia microti*, *Babesia duncani*, and *Babesia divergens*/MO-1, it may detect low-grade asymptomatic parasitemia in individuals in babesiosis-endemic areas. Thus, it should only be used for testing patients with a clinical history and symptoms consistent with babesiosis.

Inhibitory substances may cause false-negative results.

Inadequate specimen collection or improper storage may invalidate test results.

CPT Code:

87798 x 3

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Saturday**Report Available:** 1 to 4 days**Questions**

Contact James Conn, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.