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| **CSF Oligoclonal Bands** | | | |
| **Synonyms** | |  | OCB, Oligo |
| **Clinical Indication** | |  | Suspected CNS inflammation. Particularly demyelinating syndromes such as multiple sclerosis.  The following must be indicated on the request form:  - Clinical indication for request - provisional or differential diagnosis.  - Length of history  - Myelogram etc. as available. |
| **Part of Profile / See Also** | |  |  |
| **Request Form** | |  | Combined Pathology manual request form or ICE request |
| **Availability / Frequency of Analysis** | |  | Referred Test: Analysed by the Neuroimmunology Department, National Hospital, Queens Square, London, if specific criteria met. |
| **Turnaround Time** | |  | 2 weeks |
| **Patient Preparation** | |  | None required |
| **Sample Requirements** | |  |  |
| **Specimen Type** |  | It is essential that the CSF samples is accompanied by a serum sample (ideally taken the same day but no more than +/- 14 days). |
| **Volume** |  | Minimum of 0.5 ml. |
| **Container** |  | White Capped Universal for the CSF    Ensure blood is collected into a yellow top (SST) tube preferably. It is also acceptable to collect blood into a green top lithium heparin tube.  Or  Paediatric SST (Brown top – Sarstedt tube)  Or  Paediatric SST (Yellow top – BD Microtainer) |
| **Reference Range & Units** | |  |  |
| **Interferences** | |  | Haemolysed samples may be unsuitable for analysis |
| **Interpretation & Clinical**  **Decision Value (if applicable)** | |  | A paired serum is required for interpretation (this can be taken a maximum of 14 days from the CSF sample).  Oligoclonal bands in CSF indicates local synthesis in the CNS and will be found in up to 95 percent of patients with clinically definite MS, but may also be found in infections or autoimmune diseases affecting the CNS.  Presence of identical oligoclonal bands in both CSF and serum suggests passive transfer of oligoclonal IgG from a systemic inflammatory response. This pattern is more common in peripheral neuropathies, Guillain-Barre syndrome, systemic autoimmune diseases and systemic infections. It is unlikely that such a pattern indicated MS. |
| **References** | |  | UCLH National Hospital Neuroimmunology Handbook |
| **Test code** | |  | OLIG |
| **Lab Handling** | |  | Aliquot the serum and CSF and store in the referrals rack at 4°C. Clearly label the aliquots with the sample type (CSF or serum). If serum was not sent with the CSF then search the patient record for a serum sample within 14 days of the CSF and this can be used as the paired serum. Sent daily by courier to Neuroimmunology, National Hospital, London. |

