



DNA Antibody (Crithidia)

Synonyms

Double stranded DNA antibody, dsDNA, DNA by immunofluorescence, DNA IgG antibodies

Clinical Indication

dsDNA antibodies are strongly associated with SLE

The Crithidia immunofluorescence test is used for diagnostic purposes when the ANA or CTD screen is positive.

Part of Profile / See Also

ANA, CTD screen, DNA Antibody

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Daily Monday-Friday

Urgent same/next day analysis must be discussed with laboratory (01268 968278) and samples must be in the lab by 12pm.

Turnaround Time

4 working days

Patient Preparation

None required

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Serum

Volume

2 ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Or Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

Results are reported as Negative, Weak Positive or Positive

Interferences

Grossly lipaemic or haemolysed are unsuitable

Samples containing azide or other preservatives or microbially contaminated samples should not be used.

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Negative: Active SLE is unlikely when the Crithidia result is negative.

Positive: Consistent with active SLE

Samples positive by this method (immunofluorescence) will be tested using the Phadia method, for confirmation and to give a quantitative result.

Antibodies to native dsDNA are characteristic of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). There is evidence which suggests that circulating DNA/anti-DNA immune complexes play a role in the pathogenesis of SLE (particularly renal disease). In general, anti-native DNA antibodies are not found in other rheumatic diseases, but if present, their titre is usually lower than those in SLE patients

Low levels of anti-native double stranded DNA antibodies also occur in patients with early, treated or inactive lupus. Also, low levels of anti-native double stranded DNA antibodies have been reported in normal, apparently healthy individuals in the absence of the disease. Not all patients with SLE have antibodies to DNA.

dsDNA antibodies may also be seen in autoimmune chronic active hepatitis (AICAH) and in rheumatoid arthritis treated with sulphasalazine

References

Isenberg DA, et al. Fifty years of anti-dsDNA antibodies: are we approaching journey's end? *Rheumatology*. 2007. 46(7):1052-1056

Kavanagh AF, Solomon DH. Guidelines for immunologic laboratory testing in the rheumatic diseases: anti-DNA antibody tests. *Arthritis and rheumatism*. 2002. 47(5): 546-555.

Test code

DNIF

Lab Handling

Aliquot and store at 4-8°C prior to testing and at -20°C or below for up to 1 month after receipt.