

Islet Cell Antibodies

Synonyms

ICA, pancreatic islet antibodies

Clinical Indication

This test is no longer done routinely, the diabetes antibody panel of three separate tests (GAD, IA2, ZNT8 antibodies) are done instead.

Predicting type I diabetes in relatives of patients with diagnosed type I diabetes.

Not to be used routinely for confirmation of type I diabetes but they may be useful if type 1 diabetes is suspected but the clinical presentation includes some atypical features (for example, age 50 years or above, BMI of 25 kg/m² or above, slow evolution of hyperglycaemia or long prodrome).

Requests for islet cell antibodies will only be referred following discussion between the requester and clinical scientist in Immunology or Biochemistry.

Part of Profile / See Also

Diabetes antibody panel

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referred test: Analysed by Sheffield Protein Reference Unit (8494)

Turnaround Time

3 weeks

Patient Preparation

None required

Sample Requirements

Please note a separate sample is required when Immunology tests are requested in addition to Biochemistry tests

Specimen Type

Serum

Volume

1 ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Or Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

Normal result: negative

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Results are reported as being either:

WEAK POSITIVE, POSITIVE, STRONG POSITIVE or NEGATIVE.

ICA are present in about 75% of T1 DM at diagnosis, but are transient and disappear soon after diagnosis (within 6 months often) once the islets have been destroyed.

ICA in the asymptomatic high risk population indicates an increased likelihood of Type 1 DM developing.

References

<https://www.immqas.org.uk/TestItem.asp?id=508>

Test code

ISLE

Lab Handling

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



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