

MuSK Antibodies

Synonyms

Muscle specific tyrosine kinase antibodies

Clinical Indication

Suspected myasthenia gravis with negative acetylcholine receptor antibodies. Symptoms include muscle weakness, slurred speech, double vision, difficulty swallowing and breathing.

Part of Profile / See Also

Acetylcholine receptor antibodies

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referred test: Analysed by Immunology, Oxford University Hospital - [8782](#)

Turnaround Time

3-4 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

2 ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

Results are reported as Positive or Negative

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Approx. 20% of patients with clinical myasthenia gravis are negative for acetylcholine receptor antibodies. Studies show that antibodies to MuSK are present in 40-50% of patients with generalized acetylcholine receptor seronegative MG.

Anti-MuSK antibodies have not been found in patients with purely ocular myasthenia or in those with anti-acetylcholine receptor antibodies.

References

<https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/immunology/diagnostic-tests/tests-catalogue/musk-antibodies.aspx>

Test code

MUSK

Lab Handling

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