



# Anti-Nuclear Antibodies

<b>Synonyms</b>	ANA, antinuclear factor
<b>Clinical Indication</b>	<p>Suspicion of systemic autoimmune disease such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE</li> <li>• Mixed connective tissue disease</li> <li>• Sjögren's syndrome</li> <li>• Scleroderma</li> <li>• Polymyositis/dermatomyositis</li> <li>• Raynaud's syndrome</li> <li>• CREST</li> </ul> <p>ANA is not useful for screening normal populations as false positives are common in the elderly and unwell, especially at low titres.</p>
<b>Part of Profile / See Also</b>	ENA screen, dsDNA Crithidia, dsDNA
<b>Request Form</b>	Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request
<b>Availability / Frequency of Analysis</b>	<p>As requested</p> <p>Urgent same/next day analysis must be discussed with laboratory (01268 968278) and samples must be in the lab by 12pm.</p>
<b>Turnaround Time</b>	<p>4 working days</p> <p>If the ANA screen is positive and additional tests are required, these will be processed the following working day.</p>
<b>Patient Preparation</b>	None required
<b>Sample Requirements</b>	*Please note a separate sample is required when Immunology tests are requested in addition to Biochemistry tests*
<b>Specimen Type</b>	Serum
<b>Volume</b>	2 ml
<b>Container</b>	 Yellow top (SST) tube Or  Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube
<b>Reference Range &amp; Units</b>	<p>Negative: No clear immunofluorescence pattern at a sample dilution of 1:80</p> <p>Positive: Result is given as the pattern seen and the titre (up to 1:640)</p>
<b>Interferences</b>	Lipaemic, haemolysed or microbially contaminated samples may give poor results and should not be used.

**Interpretation & Clinical**
**Decision Value (if applicable)**

Testing is by indirect immunofluorescence on HEp2 cells. The pattern seen gives an indication of the antibodies present.

Samples positive for ANA at >1:80 (1:40 for paediatric samples) will be reflex tested for double-stranded DNA and ENA.

Testing for ENA and dsDNA in patient who are ANA negative is not generally useful and will not be performed – if clinically relevant, please state on the request form or contact the laboratory on 01268 968278

**References**

[www.anapatterns.org](http://www.anapatterns.org)

**Test code**

ANA

**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.