

NMDA Receptor Antibodies

Synonyms

NMDA, NMDAR, N-methyl-D-aspartate Glutamate

Clinical Indication

- Encephalitis of unknown origin
- Limbic Encephalitis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Ataxia
- Epilepsia partialis continua
- Psychiatric disturbances including amnesia, seizures, dyskinesias, autonomic dysfunction and loss of consciousness.

It is essential to provide relevant clinical information.

Part of Profile / See Also

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

21 days.

Patient Preparation

Sample Requirements

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

Specimen Type

Serum

Volume

7 ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Paediatric yellow Top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

Samples are reported as Positive or Negative.

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Normal result = negative

The fixed cell assay is carried out as the first line test and antibodies may be low or sub-threshold in first samples but subsequently rise. If diagnostic suspicion remains high, please send further samples paired with CSF.

The fixed-cell NMDA assay has a lower sensitivity than the live-cell NMDA assay; in cases where clinical suspicion remains high consider contacting the laboratory to request the live-cell assay.

References

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

<https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/immunology/documents/NMDAfactsheetJan2016.pdf>

Test code

NMDA

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.



8782
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ISO 15189:2012