



Steroid Cell Antibodies

Synonyms

Ovarian antibodies, testes antibodies, adrenal antibodies, endocrine antibodies, [antibodies to 17 alpha-hydroxylase \(P450c17\)](#), [21 alpha-hydroxylase \(P450c21\)](#) and [cholesterol desmolase \(P450scc\)](#) steroid enzymes

Clinical Indication

- Premature ovarian failure/menopause
- Premature testicular failure
- Primary adrenal insufficiency / Addison's disease
- Autoimmune polyendocrinopathies / polyglandular autoimmunity

It is essential to provide relevant clinical information as this one test can detect more than one antibody (adrenal, ovary, testes)

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual request form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referred test: Analysis performed at Immunology, [Protein Reference Unit, Sheffield](#)

Turnaround Time

21 days

Patient Preparation

No special preparation is required.

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

A qualitative result is given and samples are reported as [Weak Positive](#), [Positive](#) or [Negative](#) [for each organ specificity](#).

Interferences

[None known](#)

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

A normal result is negative.

Testing is carried out via immunofluorescence and consists of a composite substrate containing ovarian, testicular and adrenal tissue.

Antibodies staining more than one tissue are reacting with enzymes common to the hormonal synthetic pathways in these tissues, hence the term 'steroid cell antibodies'. [Steroid cell antibodies are associated with the autoimmune polyglandular syndrome types 1, 2 and 3](#) and can also be associated with [premature ovarian failure and premature testicular failure](#).

Antibodies to these enzymes can also be associated with autoimmune Addison's disease, and the presence of these antibodies can be used to identify those patients in the pre-clinical period and in those patients with adrenocortical insufficiency to predict the risk of progression to adrenal failure.

Antibodies giving positive ovarian staining pattern can be seen in insulin dependent diabetes and pernicious anaemia.

A positive result is indicative of various autoimmune endocrine disorders, although autoimmune endocrinopathy may be seronegative in a minority of cases. Interpret in the clinical context.

<https://www.immqas.org.uk/TestItem.asp?id=25>

References

Test code

STER

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.