

Cold Agglutinins

Synonyms

Cold Aggs

Clinical Indication

Measurement of the level of Anti I/i in samples from patients with suspected, or diagnosed, Cold Haemagglutinin Disease (CHAD). Requestors attempting to use this test for diagnosis of anything other than CHAD should be asked to contact Microbiology.

On clinical indication only with guidance from a Consultant Haematologist.

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Combined Pathology Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Requested by or after discussion with Consultant Haematologist

Turnaround Time

72 - 96 Hours

Patient Preparation

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Whole Blood Only

Volume

2 x 6ml EDTA samples

Container

Basildon Site:



Purple top (EDTA) tube.

Southend Site:



Pink Top (EDTA) tube

Patients must be bled at Basildon or Southend Hospital. GP and outpatient requests can attend Monday to Thursday (9.00am to 4.30pm only) without having to book an appointment. For inpatients please contact Blood Transfusion to obtain a flask.

Take both samples into pre-warmed purple top (EDTA) tube immediately label, with patient details. Place in sample bag and place in flask containing 37°C water. Replace the flask lid. Take samples to the laboratory

immediately. Samples should be placed in the haematology incubator immediately upon receipt before processing.

Reference Range & Units

Positive results at 1 in 64 or a higher dilution in the pooled adult cells may be indicative of Cold Haemagglutinin Disease. Antibody may be Anti-I, which gives a higher titre in the pooled adult cells, or Anti-i, which gives a higher titre in the pooled cord cells. Cold Haemagglutinin Disease would normally be accompanied by a positive Direct Antiglobulin Test showing C3 on the patient's cells.

NOTE: This test is now referred and it is not part of our UKAS accreditation.

Interferences

This test is not suitable as a surrogate test for Mycoplasma Pneumonia, Atypical Pneumonia, or Syphilis.

Samples that are not kept at the required temperature will give possible incorrect results. A fourfold or greater rise in the titre of cold agglutinins is suggestive of a recent *M.pneumoniae* infection

Interpretation & Clinical
Decision Value (if applicable)
References
Test code
Lab Handling

Samples should remain warm until separation of plasma.

