

Anti-CCP Antibodies

Synonyms

Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, ACCP

Clinical Indication

Diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) – synovitis, joint pain, joint erosions, joint swelling, etc.

Diagnosis of RA when Rheumatoid factor is negative

Prognostic marker in RA

There is generally no need to repeat positive patients, no repeat testing of negative patients within 7 years and no need to repeat unless new symptoms of inflammatory arthritis.

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Tested every working day (Monday to Friday)

Turnaround Time

1 week

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



Or Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

<7 U/mL – Negative

7 – 10 U/ml – Equivocal

>10 U/ml - Positive

Interferences

Grossly haemolysed, lipaemic and icteric samples are unsuitable

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

A high proportion of patients with established Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) have anti-CCP antibodies and relatively few patients without RA are positive (2-5% of disease controls). Anti-CCP antibodies appear early in RA and can pre-date clinical onset by years. Most, but not all, patients are also positive for rheumatoid factor (RhF).

CCP antibodies have been shown to be highly specific for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and appear early in the disease process when diagnosis is most difficult and intervention most effective. CCP antibody measurement is of value in

confirming the diagnosis of RA in patients with atypical presentation, excluding a diagnosis of RA in patients where the RF is positive but the clinical features are equivocal and also as an indicator of early RA.

Clinical sensitivity for RA approx. 70%, specificity for RA approx. 90%

There is generally no need to repeat positive patients, no repeat testing of negative patients within 12 months.

References

<https://labtestsonline.org.uk/tests/ccp>

NICE guideline - Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management (NG100)

Test code

CPAS

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.