

## Overview

### Useful For

Aiding in the diagnosis of neurosyphilis

### Method Name

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

Flocculation/Agglutination

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

CSF

### Specimen Required

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

**Collection Container/Tube:** Sterile vial

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Collection Instructions:** Submit specimen collected in vial 2, if possible. If not, note which vial from which the aliquot was obtained.

### Specimen Minimum Volume

0.2 mL

### Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject
Gross lipemia	Reject

### Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
CSF	Refrigerated	14 days	
	Frozen (preferred)	14 days	

---

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

The Venereal Diseases Research Laboratory (VDRL) assay is a nontreponemal serologic test for syphilis that uses a cardiolipin-cholesterol-lecithin antigen to detect reaginic antibodies.

The presence of neurosyphilis in untreated patients can be detected by the presence of pleocytosis, elevated protein, and a positive VDRL result.

### Reference Values

Only orderable as a reflex. For more information see VDSF / VDRL, Spinal Fluid.

Negative

Reference values apply to all ages.

### Interpretation

A positive VDRL on spinal fluid is highly specific for neurosyphilis.

### Cautions

VDRL testing on spinal fluid gives a high percentage of false-negative results.

### Clinical Reference

1. Miller JN. Value and limitations of nontreponemal and treponemal tests in the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis. Clin Obstet Gynecol. 1975;18(1):191-203
2. Radolf JD, Tramont EC, Salazar JC. Syphilis (*Treponema pallidum*). In: Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020:2865-2892

## Performance

### Method Description

The VDRL antigen and spinal fluid are mixed on a 180 RPM rotator. The antigen, a cardiolipin-lecithin coated cholesterol particle, flocculates in the presence of reagin.(US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Communicable Diseases Center, Venereal Disease Program: Manual of Tests for Syphilis. Centers for Disease Control; 1969; Bennett JE, Dolin R, Blaser MJ, eds. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases. 9th ed. Elsevier; 2020)

### PDF Report

No

### Day(s) Performed

Monday through Friday

### Report Available

---

1 to 3 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

14 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

86593

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
VDSFQ	VDRL Titer, CSF	31146-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
65036	VDRL Titer, CSF	31146-4