

Human Herpesvirus-6 A and B DNA Detection and Quantification, PCR, Spinal Fluid

Test ID: QHV6C

Useful for:

As an adjunct in the rapid diagnosis of human herpesvirus-6 infection using cerebrospinal fluid specimens. This test should not be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

Methods:

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Reference Values:

Undetected

Specimen Requirements:

- Container/Tube:** Sterile vial
- Preferred:** Aliquot tube
- Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL
- Collection Instructions:** 1. Collect specimen from collection vial 2.
2. **Do not centrifuge.**
- Minimum Volume:** 0.3 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
CSF	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days
	Frozen	7 days

Cautions:

A negative result does not exclude human herpesvirus-6 virus (HHV-6) infection. Therefore, the results obtained should be used in conjunction with clinical findings to make an accurate diagnosis.

This assay detects nucleic acid and, therefore, cannot distinguish between replicating and nonreplicating virus (ie, remnant viral nucleic acid). Test performance depends on the viral load in the specimen and may not correlate with cell culture performed on the same specimen.

Although this assay may detect dual infections of HHV-6A and HHV-6B, low level infections may be masked when in the presence of a higher concentration of an HHV-6 subtype.

Viral loads may vary between laboratory-developed assays. When monitoring a patient's HHV-6 viral load, the same method and sample type should be used.

This test cannot be converted to IU/mL. It is recommended to utilize the same test for the duration of the clinical care for consistency in reporting units (copies/mL).

CPT Code:

87533

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Friday

Report Available: 4 to 6 days

Questions

Contact James Conn, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.