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TOXOPLASMA
TEST UPDATE

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This change will take effect **August 4, 2014**

OVERVIEW AND CLINICAL UTILITY:

To improve performance and sensitivity of the Toxoplasma assay, PathGroup Labs will begin testing by Chemiluminescent Immunoassay for IgM Antibodies. The serological diagnosis of acute toxoplasmosis allows adequate treatment which reduces the risks of the disease both in immunocompromised patients and pregnant women. Specific IgG antibodies to Toxoplasma, which appear subsequent to IgM antibodies, rise gradually and peak two to five months after onset of infection. Therefore, the presence of IgG is useful in distinguishing subjects who have acquired the disease from those who have not. This is particularly important in order to identify susceptible women of child-bearing age. Specific IgM antibodies to Toxoplasma develop two to four weeks after the onset of infection, rapidly increase and gradually decline thereafter, disappearing in three to nine months. The presence of IgM in the absence of IgG or in the presence of low IgG levels is generally indicative of acute toxoplasmosis.

TEST METHODOLOGY: Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CLIA) technology

ORDERING:

TEST NAME	OLD TEST CODE	OLD LOINC	NEW TEST CODE	NEW LOINC	CPT
Toxoplasma Antibodies IgM	TPMA	12262-2	TXPMA	8040-8	86778

UNITS OF MEASURE CHANGE: Ratio to AU/mL

REFERENCE RANGE:

INDEX	RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
<8.0 AU/mL	Negative	Absence of detectable *Toxoplasma gondii* IgM antibodies. A negative result does not always rule out acute toxoplasmosis, because the infection may be in its very early stage and the patient has not developed *Toxoplasma gondii* specific IgM. If exposure to *Toxoplasma gondii* is suspected despite a negative finding, a second sample should be collected and tested three (3) weeks later.

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REFERENCE RANGE (CONT.):

INDEX	RESULTS	INTERPRETATION
≥8.0 AU/mL and <10 AU/mL	Equivocal	The equivocal sample should be retested. If result remains in this range after repeat testing, a second sample should be collected and tested three (3) weeks later.
≥10 AU/mL	Positive	Possible presence of detectable *Toxoplasma gondii* IgM antibodies. A specimen with a positive result should be further tested for *Toxoplasma gondii*.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND STORAGE:

IF ORDERING:
1) Collect specimen in an SST /serum separator tube a) Allow serum tube to clot for 30 minutes. b) Spin serum separator tube 10-15 minutes @ 3500 rpm. 2) Serum specimens are stable refrigerated for 7 days. 3) Transport specimen refrigerated. Unacceptable: Severe hemolysis

TEST PERFORMED: Monday - Friday **TURNAROUND TIME:** 1 – 2 Days

For further questions, please contact Client Services at 615-562-9300 or 888-474-5227