



TECHNICAL NOTICE

SOUTH BEND MEDICAL FOUNDATION

March 2009

Helicobacter pylori IgM Antibody

Effective Date: April 1, 2009

Performing Department: Immunology

Method: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

Use: Detect the presence of *Helicobacter pylori* IgM antibody, an early indicator of exposure to the organism

Clinical Significance:

IgM is elevated during the early stages of an exposure to *H. pylori*. There are two possible outcomes, either the immune system will eradicate the organism or the organism will begin to populate the mucosal lining of the upper GI tract. If IgM is the only elevated antibody to *H. pylori*, it must be correlated with active symptoms to determine if treatment is required. If asymptomatic, it is quite possible that the immune system was able to counter the effects of infection. If treatment is not chosen at this time, it is recommended to retest the patient in 2-3 months to ensure that infection has subsided.

Reference Range:

- 0.8 EV or less: Negative - No significant level of IgM antibody to *H. pylori* detected.
- 0.9-1.1 EV: Equivocal - Repeat testing in 10-14 days may be helpful.
- 1.2 EV or greater: Positive - IgM antibody to *H. pylori* detected, suggestive of active infection.

Specimen Requirements and Collection:

Preferred Specimen: • Serum from gold top (SST) or red top (serum) tube

Requested Volume: • 1.0 mL

Minimum Volume: • 0.5 mL

Processing:

- Serum tube samples, clot 30 minutes • All tubes, promptly centrifuge 15 minutes
- Transfer serum from red top tube, or plasma from lavender top or green top tube, to separate plastic tube
- Properly centrifuged SST (gel barrier) tube sample does not require transfer of serum to separate tube

Stability: • 48 hours room temperature (20-30°C) • 2 weeks refrigerated (2-8°C) • 1 year frozen (-20°C)

Causes For Rejection: • Severely hemolyzed, lipemic or heat-inactivated sample

Testing Schedule: • Monday-Friday • Samples received by 7:00 am will be reported by 5:00 pm the same day

Order: • *Helicobacter pylori* IgM Antibody Test #: **28076** CPT: • 86677

Please direct questions or comments regarding this notice to William J. Kaliney, M.D., Deborah H. Sun, Ph.D., or Sherrie White of South Bend Medical Foundation, (574) 234-4176 or (800) 544-0925.

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