
February, 2021

Cryptococcal Antigen

As of February, 2021 the Methodist Pathology Center is converting the Cryptococcal Antigen Test from the Latex Agglutination assay to a Lateral Flow Assay. This change will result in higher sensitivity.

Changes:

The CrAg LFA utilizes highly sensitive and specific anti-cryptococcal mouse monoclonal antibodies. These antibodies are highly sensitive to glucuronoxylomannan, (GXM) the primary antigen shed by the organism. The CrAg Lateral Flow Assay is an immunochromatographic test system for the qualitative or semi-quantitative detection of the capsular polysaccharide antigens of *Cryptococcus* species complex (*Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Cryptococcus gattii*) in serum and cerebral spinal fluid (CSF).

Specimen Requirements: Serum or Unprocessed (unspun) CSF-unchanged.

Order: Cryptococcal Antigen- unchanged.

Performance:

Sensitivity: 100%
Specificity: 99.8%

Reporting: Results will be reported as “Negative” or “Positive”.

Please direct any questions regarding the new assay to Dr. Tess Karre, director of microbiology, or LaNett Whisler, Microbiology Service Leader at 4-4541.

References:

- Hansen J, Slechta ES, Gates-Hollingsworth MA, Neary B, Barker A, Bauman S, Kozel TR, Hanson KE
Clin. Vaccine Immunol. Epub 2012 Oct 31.
- Package insert. CrAg® LFA Cryptococcal Antigen Lateral Flow Assay. IMMY, Inc. Norman, OK.
Revised 6/2019