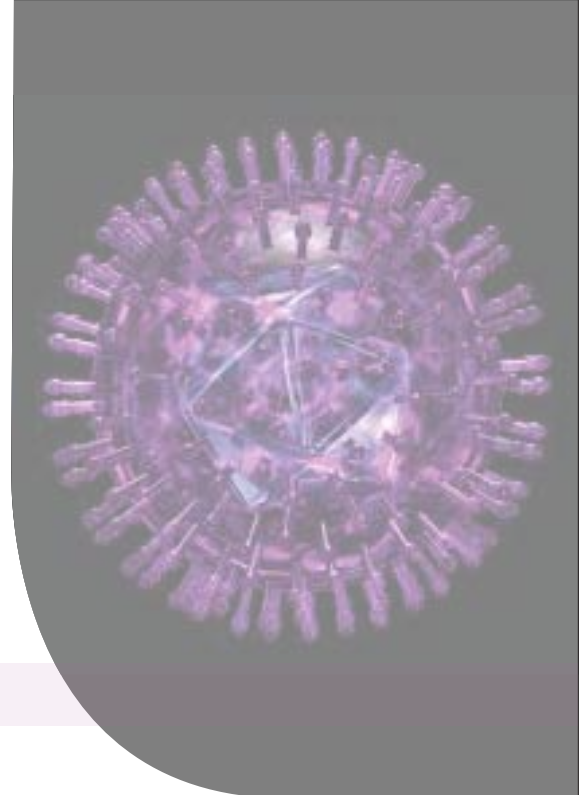


MOLECULAR TESTING – HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS (HSV): QUALITATIVE PCR

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Herpes simplex viruses -- more commonly known as herpes -- are categorized into two types: herpes type 1 (HSV-1 or oral herpes) and herpes type 2 (HSV-2, or genital herpes). Most commonly, herpes type 1 causes sores around the mouth and lips (sometimes called fever blisters or cold sores). HSV-1 can cause genital herpes, but most cases of genital herpes are caused by herpes type 2. In HSV-2, the infected person may have sores around the genitals or rectum. Although HSV-2 sores may occur in other locations, these sores usually are found below the waist.

RATIONAL FOR TESTING AND CLINICAL UTILITY OF HSV TESTING

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) is an important human pathogen affecting millions of people worldwide. HSV-1 and HSV-2 are well known etiologic agents of gingivostomatitis, conjunctivitis, keratitis, herpetic whitlow, and genital infections as well as encephalitis, aseptic meningitis, atypical pneumonias and a wide variety of other clinical conditions. Qualitative HSV DNA PCR is the ideal diagnostic tool for CNS specimens, since HSV will rarely grow from CSF in cell culture. Qualitative PCR can be used to detect the presence of the virus as well as track the course of infections and response to treatment.

Active HSV is diagnosed by a variety of techniques like Herpes viral culture, antigen - antibody test and molecular diagnostics. The gold standard for detection is molecular diagnostics provides specific and accurate detection. The nested PCR assay is to ensure fast and specific detection of the viral genome. PCR is the method of testing for spinal fluid, for those rare cases in which herpes may cause an infection in or around the brain.

METHOD OF TESTING: NESTED PCR (QUALITATIVE)

TEST ORDER INFORMATION

Specimen : 0.5/1 ML CSF
Temperature : Ambient
TAT : 3 Days