



Anti-Endomysial Antibody

Serologic testing has made the diagnosis of gluten sensitive enteropathies such as celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis less invasive. In susceptible individuals, gluten causes intestinal-villus atrophy with the physical consequence of malabsorption. IgA class endomysial antibodies are very specific, occurring only in celiac and dermatitis herpetiformis. Antibody titers are found to parallel morphologic changes in the jejunum.

Method:

IgA class antibodies can be detected in patient serum using smooth muscle of monkey esophagus and standard indirect immunofluorescence techniques.

Specimen Requirements and Shipping:

1. Approximately 0.5 mL of patient serum is necessary to perform the analysis. Serum should be placed in a small, tightly capped tube. The tube should be labeled with the patient name, date of birth, ID number, date specimen collected and referring physician name.
2. Serum samples should be kept frozen and stored at -20° or -70°C until they are shipped on dry ice. Multiple *freeze-thaw cycles should be avoided*.
3. Package according to regulations regarding shipment of infectious material and pack enough dry ice to last 48 hours.
4. Ship **overnight** by appropriate courier (i.e. UPS / Fed Ex) to the address above.

Please note: The laboratory is closed on weekends and holidays. When shipping, please ship overnight and ensure a **weekday** delivery.

Turn Around Time: Test Run on Mondays

Samples are batched and run every Monday (with the exception of a Monday holiday, in which case the test is run on Tuesday). The results will be faxed and/or mailed to you immediately following assay completion.

Billing is made to the institution from which the sample was sent.
The cost of this analysis is \$45.00.