

FLETCHER ALLEN HEALTH CARE

PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE

TEST UPDATE: VIRAL CULTURE, NON-RESPIRATORY

ASSAY INFORMATION:

For many clinical situations, traditional viral culture remains the most sensitive and specific means for diagnosing viral infections. It is important to specify the viruses suspected, so that we can inoculate the most appropriate cell lines, or notify you if we are not able to isolate the virus(es) you suspect with available cell lines.

CLINICAL APPLICATION:

The likely viral pathogens will vary with the anatomic site and the clinical condition. In certain sites, viral culture is not the best diagnostic test, e.g., for CSF, PCR assays are preferred for enterovirus and herpes viruses (including herpes simplex, varicella-zoster, EB, and CMV); serum and CSF antibody assays are optimal for West Nile virus.

Specimens should be carefully collected and sent to the laboratory as quickly as possible. Aspirates or biopsies of fluid or tissue are preferred. Copan swabs may be used, but please avoid calcium alginate swabs or swabs on wooden sticks. Place the swab in VCT medium and break off or cut the swab. VCT medium can be obtained from Laboratory Customer Service (847-5121) and should be refrigerated until used. Refrigerate the inoculated medium if immediate transport to the laboratory cannot be accomplished.

METHOD:

Virus culture is performed by conventional methods in monolayers of cells on glass. The cell lines inoculated will be targeted based on the viruses indicated in the request. If cytopathic effect is observed, additional tests (with attendant charges) will be necessary to establish the identification of the isolate.

ORDERING INFORMATION:

Test Name: Viral culture, Non-respiratory

Test Code: OTHVC

Bracket Code: 5417

Sample Requirements: Aspirate or biopsied tissue Swab in VCT broth

Testing Performed: Daily

Analytical Time: When positive or 14 days

Expected Value: No Virus Isolated

Test Note: Specific viruses suspected must be indicated. Additional CPT codes may be required for identification of an isolated virus

Price: Please contact Laboratory Customer Service for pricing information (847-5121 or 1-800-991-2799).

CPT Code: 87252

Effective Date: Monday, December 15, 2008