
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: HHV6 A & B DNA PCR, QUANTITATIVE, BLOOD

General Information

Lab Order Codes: QHV6P

Synonyms: Human Herpes Virus 6 PCR; HHV-6; Herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6) DNA, Quantitative Real-Time PCR; HHV-6 A and B DNA Quant PCR

CPT Codes: 87533 – Herpes virus-6, quantification

Test Includes: Qualitative presence or absence of HHV-6 DNA with quantification in copies/mL, if within the reportable range.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful as an adjunct in the rapid diagnosis of human herpesvirus-6 infection using plasma specimens. This test should *not* be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

Lab Testing Sections: Microbiology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MML QHV6P)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 4-6 days

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Blood: Lavender top (EDTA) tube

Draw Volume: 3 mL blood (minimum 0.9 mL)

Processed Volume:	1 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) plasma
Collection:	Routine blood collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove plasma aliquot into a screw-cap plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly. Specimen stable 7 days refrigerated (preferred), 7 days frozen, or 24 hours ambient.
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Rejection:	Samples collected in incorrect anticoagulant; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; gross hemolysis or lipemia.

Interpretive

Reference Range:	Undetected See the Mayo catalog entry for quantification range and further interpretation.
Limitations:	<p>The sensitivity of the assay is dependent upon the quality of the specimen submitted.</p> <p>A negative result does not exclude human herpesvirus-6 (HHV-6) infection. Therefore, the results obtained should be used in conjunction with clinical findings to make an accurate diagnosis.</p> <p>This assay detects nucleic acid and, therefore, cannot distinguish between replicating and nonreplicating virus (ie, remnant viral nucleic acid). Test performance depends on the viral load in the specimen and may not correlate with cell culture performed on the same specimen.</p> <p>Although this assay may detect dual infections of HHV-6A and HHV-6B, low level infections may be masked when in the presence of a higher concentration of an HHV-6 subtype.</p> <p>Viral loads may vary between laboratory-developed assays. When monitoring a patient's HHV-6 viral load, the same method and sample type should be used.</p> <p>This test cannot be converted to IU/mL. It is recommended to utilize the same test for the duration of the clinical care for consistency in reporting units (copies/mL).</p>
Methodology:	Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
References:	Mayo Clinic Laboratories (December 2024)

Updates:

12/10/2024: Initial entry. Replaces obsolete HHV6P.