



“Linking Quality Diagnostic Testing Services with our Vision of a Healthier Tomorrow”

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Acute Tick-Borne Disease Testing Information

It is the season for Acute Tick-Borne illness, so the SVMC Laboratory would like to provide some information on what tests are available and recommended for ordering.

For ER and inpatients, the providers have available in Meditech an order set named “Acute Tick-Borne Screen, Blood” which will contain the 3 recommended screening tests below.

For office and clinic providers, please consider if an order set can be created in your individual practice systems that would include the following 3 recommended tests:

For Acute Tick-Borne Disease Screening, the following 3 orders are recommended:

1. Lyme Antibody w/reflex to Western Blot (LYME)
2. Tick-Borne Panel by PCR, Blood (TICKP)
This panel includes PCR testing for Babesia, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia species.
3. Borrelia miyamotoi PCR, Blood (BMD)

Specimen requirements:

Please submit **2 FULL** Lavender top tubes (1 each for the two PCR panels) and 1 FULL SST10 tube for the Lyme.

Serological IgG and IgM testing for Babesia, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia is not recommended during the acute phase of infection due to the 2-3 week timeframe needed for the patient to create detectable antibodies.

If further patient follow up is clinically indicated, the recommendation is to perform serology testing for IgG antibodies (only) after a 2-3 week time period from initial onset of illness.

NOTICE:

1. Serological testing for Borrelia miyamotoi is not currently available on the market, so the PCR test is to be used for acute phase testing only.
2. Any order the SVMC Laboratory receives for Babesia, Anaplasma or Ehrlichia Antibody testing will be for the IgG antibodies only.
3. Any order the SVMC Laboratory receives for LYME Western Blot will be converted to the Lyme Antibody w/Reflex to Western Blot test.

For any questions or concerns please contact Dr. Marie George, Infectious Diseases, at 802-447-554 (pager 742-7699), or Dr. Marianne DeMarco, Laboratory Medical Director at 802-447-5344.