Reporting Title: Malaria/Babesia Smear
Performing Location: Rochester

Specimen Requirements:

Malaria is potentially a life-threatening disease and testing for this infection should be performed as rapidly as possible. Therefore, this test should not be used as a primary screening test for malaria, except for clients in the immediate Rochester, Minnesota area when the specimen can be delivered within several hours of collection. Laboratories that are unable to deliver a specimen within this time frame should provide an initial screen for malaria and other blood parasites in their laboratory prior to sending a specimen to Mayo Medical Laboratories. This test is useful for confirmation of a presumptive malaria diagnosis and determination of infecting Plasmodium species.

Forms: If not ordering electronically, submit a Microbiology Request Form (Supply T244) with the specimen.

Blood and slides are required.

Specimen Type: Blood
Container/Tube: Lavender top (EDTA)
Specimen Volume: 1 mL
Collection Instructions:
1. Invert several times to mix blood.
2. Do not transfer blood to other containers. Send specimen in original tube.
Specimen Stability Information: Refrigerated

Specimen Type: Blood films
Container/Tube: Clean, grease-free slides in plastic slide container
Specimen Volume: 2 thin blood films and 2 thick blood films
Collection Instructions:
1. Ideally, blood films should be made from fingerstick or drops of blood from needle following venipuncture. However, EDTA anticoagulated blood is also acceptable.
2. Prepare thin blood films as follows:
a. Prepare a thin film with a "feathered edge" which is no more than a single cell thick.
b. Allow the film to thoroughly air dry and then fix by briefly immersing in either absolute or 95% methyl alcohol.
c. Allow to air dry after fixation.
3. Prepare thick blood films as follows:
a. Place a large drop of blood (approximately the size of a dime and preferably from a fingerstick) on a slide.
b. Using a corner of a second slide, spread the drop in a circular motion while applying firm pressure to literally scratch the blood onto the carrier slide. This technique allows the blood to dry quickly and adhere well to the slide. Use approximately 20 circular sweeps with the second slide. The drop of blood should be about the size of a quarter when finished.
c. Do not fix. Air dry thoroughly (approximately 45 minutes) before placing in transport container.
Specimen Stability Information: Refrigerated (preferred)/ Ambient

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Varies	Varies	

Ask at Order Entry (AOE) Questions:

Test ID	Question ID	Description	Type	Reportable
MAL	Q00M0036	Specimen Source	Plain Text	No

Result Codes:

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
MAL	Malaria/Babesia Smear	Alphanumeric		51714-4

CPT Code: 1 × 87207

Reference Values:

Negative
If positive, organism identified