MAYO CLINIC
Mayo Medical Laboratories

TEST OBSOLETE
NOTIFICATION DATE: March 24, 2011
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 29, 2011

Syphilis Antibody, IgG and IgM, Serum
#32186

EXPLANATION: The determination of exposure history to syphilis by serologic testing for IgG-class antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* is very useful information, particularly for women of child-bearing ages. However, the clinical utility of IgM testing for the laboratory assessment of primary syphilis infection in adults is still largely undefined.

Furthermore, it remains undefined whether IgM testing enhances the laboratory diagnosis of syphilis, especially since most patients present in the secondary stage of disease when RPR and IgG-class antibodies are present.

Given the overall low prevalence of syphilis in the United States, routine serologic testing for IgM-class antibodies to this organism may yield false-positive results, which can negatively impact patient care. False-positive results are especially problematic when syphilis IgM testing is included in the routine screening of asymptomatic patients, including pregnant women and those undergoing pre-transplant screening.

Due to the questionable clinical utility of syphilis IgM testing and the potential negative impact of a false-positive result, Mayo Medical Laboratories **will no longer test or forward specimens from patients >12 months of age for syphilis IgM-class antibodies**. For the serologic diagnosis of syphilis in patients >12 months of age, it is **recommended to order MML unit code #32184 (Syphilis Antibody, IgG, S)**.

To assist in the diagnosis of congenital syphilis, a serum sample from patients <12 months of age may be submitted for serologic testing (Misc. Referral #90522: Focus Diagnostics, unit code #20493 Treponema pallidum IgG and IgM Antibody panel, IFA).

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE TEST: # 32184 Syphilis Antibody, IgG, Antibody, Serum

USEFUL FOR: An aid in the diagnosis of active Treponema pallidum infection. Routine prenatal screening.

METHOD: Multiplex Flow Immunoassay

REFERENCE VALUES: Negative

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS: Draw blood in a plain, red-top tube(s) or a serum gel tube(s). Spin down and send 0.75 mL of serum refrigerated on a screw-capped plastic vial.

LIST FEE: $58.10
ANALYTIC TIME: 1 day
CPT CODE: 86780-Syphilis antibody, IgG
DAY(S) SET-UP: Monday through Saturday

QUESTIONS: Contact your Mayo Medical Laboratories' Regional Manager
Kim J. Baker, Mayo Medical Laboratories' Technologist Support
Telephone: 800-533-1710