

Laboratory News

VOL. 47, NO. 1 – January 3, 2024

Microbiology Lab Update

Changes to AST panel for enterococcal isolates

Updated Reporting to Confirmatory Lyme Serology Testing (LYMPAN)

AST Panel Modifications

On or about January 10, 2024, our AST panel for enterococcal isolates will be modified as follows:

- Ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and tetracycline will now be reported only on urine cultures and when nitrofurantoin is resistant.
- Vancomycin will now always be reported regardless of culture type.

Table: Old and new enterococcal AST panels (reporting denoted by “X”)

Antimicrobial	Current Panel	New Panel
Ampicillin	X	X
Penicillin	X	X
Ciprofloxacin (urine cultures only)	-	X (only reported when nitrofurantoin is resistant)
Levofloxacin (urine cultures only)	X	X (only reported when nitrofurantoin is resistant)
Gentamicin (synergy test, blood only)	X	X
Linezolid (only reported when vancomycin is non-susceptible)	X	X
Nitrofurantoin (urine cultures only)	X	X
Tetracycline (urine cultures only)	X	X (only reported when nitrofurantoin is resistant)
Vancomycin	X (selectively reported on urine cultures; always reported other cultures)	X (Always reported on all cultures)

Lyme Disease Serologic Testing

Bottom Line Up Front: Effective January 8, 2024, the *confirmatory* IgM & IgG Lyme disease (LD) serology tests will add Equivocal to the current reporting options of Positive and Negative. Additionally, interpretive commentary has been updated. All other aspects of ordering, collection and reporting will remain unchanged.

Result Combinations Matrix with Revised Interpretive Criteria (Test result combinations that include confirmatory equivocal results are highlighted.)

Test Sequence			Interpretation for Providers
Lyme Screen	Confirmatory Lyme IgM	Confirmatory Lyme IgG	
Negative	Testing Not Indicated	Testing Not Indicated	<p>No laboratory evidence of infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease).</p> <p>Negative results may occur in patients recently infected (≤ 14 days) with <i>B. burgdorferi</i>. If recent infection is suspected, repeat testing in 7–14 days.</p>
Positive/Equivocal	Negative	Negative	<p>No laboratory evidence of infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease).</p> <p>Negative results may occur in patients recently infected (≤ 14 days) with <i>B. burgdorferi</i>. If recent infection is suspected, repeat testing in 7–14 days.</p>
Positive/Equivocal	Equivocal	Negative	<p>Infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease) cannot be ruled in or ruled out.</p> <p>Equivocal results may occur in patients recently infected (≤ 14 days) with <i>B. burgdorferi</i>. If recent</p>

Test Sequence			Interpretation for Providers
Lyme Screen	Confirmatory Lyme IgM	Confirmatory Lyme IgG	
			infection is suspected, repeat testing in 7–14 days.
Positive/Equivocal	Positive	Negative	Results are consistent with acute or recent infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease). IgM results should ONLY be considered as indicative of recent infections in patients presenting within 30 days of symptom onset.
Positive/Equivocal	Negative	Equivocal	Infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease) cannot be ruled in or ruled out. If clinically indicated, consider repeat testing in 7-14 days.
Positive/Equivocal	Negative	Positive	Results are consistent with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease) infection in the recent or remote past.
Positive/Equivocal	Positive	Positive	Results are consistent with new or recent infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease).
Positive/Equivocal	Equivocal	Equivocal	Infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease) Cannot be ruled in or ruled out. Equivocal results may occur in patients recently infected (≤ 14 days) with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> . If recent infection is suspected, repeat testing in 7–14 days.

Test Sequence			Interpretation for Providers
Lyme Screen	Confirmatory Lyme IgM	Confirmatory Lyme IgG	
Positive/Equivocal	Equivocal	Positive	Results are consistent with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> infection (Lyme disease) in the recent or remote past.
Positive/Equivocal	Positive	Equivocal	Results are consistent with a new infection with <i>B. burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease). IgM results should ONLY be considered as indicative of recent infections in patients presenting within 30 days of symptom onset.

Adapted from [Suggested Reporting Language, Interpretation and Guidance Regarding Lyme Disease Serologic Test Results \(aphl.org\)](#). (Accessed 12/11/2023)

Please contact Dr. Thomas Novicki or Dr. Sophie Arbefeville (ext. 16100) for technical questions; for therapeutic dosing questions call the pharmacist hotline (ext. 19800).