

Pneumocystis Quantitative Real-time DNA PCR

Test ID	2000 <i>Pneumocystis</i> Real-time qPCR
Clinical Utility	<i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> (formerly known as <i>Pneumocystis carinii</i>) pneumonia is a major cause of illness and death in individuals with impaired immune systems. <i>Pneumocystis</i> almost always affects the lungs, causing a form of pneumonia referred to as PCP. The organism that causes PCP has been renamed <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> to reflect its new classification as a fungus. Quantitative DNA PCR is useful to detect the organism, track the course of infection, and monitor response to treatment.
Procedure	Extraction of <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> DNA from bronchial lavage, or other respiratory specimens followed by amplification and detection using real-time, quantitative PCR. An internal control is added to ensure the extraction was performed correctly and the PCR reaction was not inhibited.
Specimens	BAL: 1-4 ml submitted in a sterile, leakproof tube; ship ambient. Whole Blood: 3-5 ml submitted in an EDTA tube; ship ambient. Other: Please inquire.
Specificity	The primers and probes used in this assay are specific for known <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> strains based on similarity search algorithms. Additionally, no cross reactivity was detected with any viral or protozoa pathogens.
Assay Range	500 copies/ml to 1×10^{10} copies/ml
Turnaround Time	Within 24 hours of receiving specimen

PCR tests are performed pursuant to a license agreement with Roche Molecular Systems, Inc.

This assay was developed and the performance characteristics were determined at ViraCor Laboratories. This test is performed in a CLIA certified laboratory. FDA approval is not required for the performance of this test.

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