

VZV Quantitative Real-time DNA PCR

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| Test ID | 9500 Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) Real-time qPCR |
| Clinical Utility | VZV reactivation is commonly seen in immunocompromised individuals. These patients are more likely to have disseminated disease with extensive skin lesions, pneumonia, hepatitis or encephalitis. Proper management is dependent upon early diagnosis; quantitative DNA PCR is a rapid and sensitive tool useful for detecting the virus, tracking the course of the infection, and monitoring response to treatment. |
| Procedure | Extraction of varicella-zoster viral DNA from plasma, CSF, other biological fluids, or tissues 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 | CSF: 1 ml fluid frozen; submitted in a sterile, leakproof tube; ship on dry ice. Swab: Sterile swab placed in 1-2 ml sterile saline; do not use viral transport media. 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 VZV based on similarity search algorithms. Additionally, no cross reactivity was detected when tested against adenoviruses, BKV, CMV, EBV, HSV-1, HSV-2, HHV-6 variant A, HHV-6 variant B, HHV-7, HHV-8, JCV, parvovirus B19, and SV-40. |
| Assay Range | 100 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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