

Augsburg, 8 February 2016

February 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

We have broadened our existing range for the diagnostics of EBV: In addition to the detection of anti VCA IgG/IgM and anti-EBNA IgG, you can also get your patients tested for anti-EA (early antigen) IgG as of now.

An infection with EBV most often shows relatively unspecific symptoms, which can occur with other viral infections as well. Routine diagnostics primarily aim at detecting an infection with EBV as well as distinguishing the different stages of the disease (for example acute or past infection).

Antibodies appear at different times in the course of the infection: IgM and IgG antibodies against the viral-capsid antigen (VCA) are detectable in the early stage of the disease. A positive test for anti VCA IgM is the classic marker of an acute infection. IgG antibodies against early antigen appear a little later in the acute stage and their number decreases to non-detectable concentrations after 3-6 months. On the contrary, the level of anti-VCA IgG persists through life. Around six to eight weeks after an infection, antibodies against EBNA are developed. Consequently, they indicate a past infection.

The single results of tests for EBV antibodies can be interpreted as follows:

Antibody profile				Diagnosis: stage of the infection
EA (IgG)	VCA (IgM)	VCA (IgG)	EBNA-1 (IgG)	
-	-	-	-	No infection
-	-	+	+	Past infection
+/-	+	+	-	Acute infection (early stage)
+/-	+	+	+	Unclear serologic constellation: further diagnostics required

Samples in form of Human Serum or EDTA-, Heparine-, and Citrate-Plasma are suitable for serological tests detecting antibodies against specific EBV antigens.

This change in the serology of EBV will not lead to any additional costs for the patient. Our goal is to provide improved diagnostics and a good service.

If you have any questions regarding the serological EBV diagnosis, please approach us. You can reach us from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. under 0049 821 78093151.

Kind regards,

Your laboratory doctor, Armin Schwarzbach