



MEMO

TO: All Regional Medical Laboratory (RML) Clients

FROM: Lawrence Johnson, M.D., FACP, Chief of Hematology and Flow Cytometry
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Date: June 19 , 2008

Subject: Platelet Antibody Testing

In an effort to improve diagnostic sensitivity and specificity, RML will now offer three different platelet antibody studies, each designed to answer different, more specific questions. RML plans to start offering the assay June 23, 2008.

Platelet Autoantibody

The platelet autoantibody study is designed to detect platelet autoantibodies eluted from the patient's platelets or circulating in the patient's serum or plasma directed against GPIIb/IIIa, GPIb/IX, and GPIa/IIa. These antibodies can be detected in patients with autoimmune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP or AITP). **This test is intended to help identify patients who present with unexplained thrombocytopenia that is secondary to immune destruction. A positive test is considered diagnostic**, while a negative test does not rule out the diagnosis. Repeat testing can sometimes be of benefit.

Order Name: **PLT AUTOAB** Test Number: 55-77425
Specimen collection: **4.5 mL EDTA Whole Blood – Refrigerated.**
CPT code: 86022

Refractory Platelet Transfusion Antibody

The refractory platelet transfusion antibody study is designed to detect antibodies that can cause the immune destruction of transfused platelets.

Order Name: **PLT REFAB** Test Number: 55-77375
Specimen collection: **4.5 mL EDTA Whole Blood – Refrigerated.**
CPT code: 86022

Heparin Platelet Antibody

The heparin platelet antibody test is designed to detect antibodies against platelet factor 4 (PF4) that are created when PF4 is complexed with heparin for heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT).

Order Name: **HEPARIN AB** Test Number: 55-66580
Specimen collection: **1 mL Serum Clot Activator SST (Red/Gray or Tiger Top) – Frozen**
CPT code: 86022

These three different tests are performed at RML St. John Hospital in Tulsa. The tests are performed Monday through Friday on dayshift.

If you have any additional questions please contact Dr. Lawrence Johnson or Sonja Matthews at (918)-744-2553.