



VARICELLA ZOSTER - Test Code 3428



Turnaround Time: 5 business days



Specimen Type: 1x SST
Blood

Description

The Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) Antibodies Test is a blood test used to detect antibodies produced by the immune system in response to the Varicella-Zoster virus. This virus is responsible for causing two distinct conditions: chickenpox (varicella) and shingles (herpes zoster) (Gershon et al., 2015).

IgM antibodies are produced early in the course of a VZV infection and usually indicate a recent or active infection (Gershon et al., 2015). The presence of IgM antibodies suggests that the immune system has recently encountered the virus, whether through initial infection or, less commonly, reactivation of the virus, as can occur with shingles (Gershon et al., 2015). IgG antibodies develop after the acute phase of the infection and typically remain in the body for life. IgG antibodies provide long-term protection against VZV, reducing the likelihood of reinfection or the reactivation of the virus as shingles in the future.

This test helps assess whether an individual has a current VZV infection or has been exposed in the past. It is especially important for individuals at risk of severe complications, such as pregnant women or those with weakened immune systems.

Whats included?

- VZV IgG
- VZV IgM

Conditions and Symptoms

- Chickenpox
- Immune dysfunction
- Shingles
- Neurologic complications

Complementary Testing

- Cytokine Panel (Test code 4004)

Accreditations Include:

- NATA ISO 15189 – Requirements for Quality and Competence in Medical Laboratories*
- CLIA – Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments*



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*See NATA and CLIA website for further details