

FACT SHEET

Treponemal pallidum Particle Agglutination (TPPA)

Test 5065

Test Description:

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs the Serodia® -TP● PA test. It is specific for detecting *Treponema pallidum* antibodies in serum or plasma samples. It does not detect *T. pallidum* directly. As with all serological tests for syphilis, interpretation of results obtained with the Serodia® -TP●PA syphilis Antibody test must be used in conjunction with the patient's clinical symptoms, medical history and other clinical and/or laboratory finding to produce an overall clinical diagnosis.

Specimens giving inconclusive results in the assay should be re-tested. A repeated inconclusive specimen should be reported as Inconclusive and another specimen drawn in two weeks for testing and/or confirmed by other methods, such as FTA-ABS. The Serodia® -TP● PA is less sensitive than the fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption (FTA-ABS) in primary syphilis but compares favorably in all other stages of syphilis. All treponemal tests tend to remain reactive following treponemal infection: therefore they should not be used to evaluate.

Sensitivity: 70-90% primary syphilis
90-99% secondary syphilis
70-90% tertiary syphilis

Specificity: 95-99% primary syphilis
90-99% secondary syphilis
90% tertiary syphilis

Infection such as tropical trepanematosi (Yaws, Pinata, Bejel) are likely to result in a positive TP-PA test.

Specimens:

Serum (specimen of choice) or EDTA Plasma sample removed from the red cells, free of hemolysis, bacterial contamination, or lipemia.

Specimens may be stored up to 5 days at refrigerated temperature 2-8C before processing.

CPT Code 86780



San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

2191 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Laboratory Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm