



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

TEST: VARICELLA-ZOSTER VIRUS ANTIBODY

ORDER CODE: 5100

TEST DESCRIPTION

The BioRad-VZV IgG assay is intended for the qualitative and semi-quantitative detection of IgG antibodies to Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) in human serum by indirect enzyme immunoassay to determine a prior infection by VZV and, when evaluating paired sera, to aid in the determination of acute or convalescent stage of VZV infection.

Varicella (chicken pox) and zoster (shingles) represent different clinical manifestations of infection with the same agent, Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV), a member of *Herpesviridae*. Varicella infections occurs most frequently in children, called "Chicken Pox", and are characterized by a generalized vesicular exanthema often accompanied by fever. Zoster or "Shingles" usually occurs in adults or immunocompromised patients and consists of a painful, circumscribed eruption of vesicular lesions with accompanying inflammation of associated dorsal root or cranial nerve sensory ganglia.

The VZV IgG test is intended for the semi-quantitative and qualitative detection of antibodies to VZV antigen.

Sensitivity and Specificity

- Sensitivity: 90–98%
- Specificity: 95–100%

SPECIMENS ACCEPTED FOR TESTING

- Whole blood without anticoagulant
 - Separate serum as soon as possible and refrigerate (2–8 °C). If testing is not completed within 48 hours, or the serum is to be stored beyond 48 hours, samples are to be **frozen at -20° C**.
- Not accepted: Grossly contaminated, hemolyzed, lipemic, or icteric specimens.

CPT code: 86787