

ABOUT ESfEQA



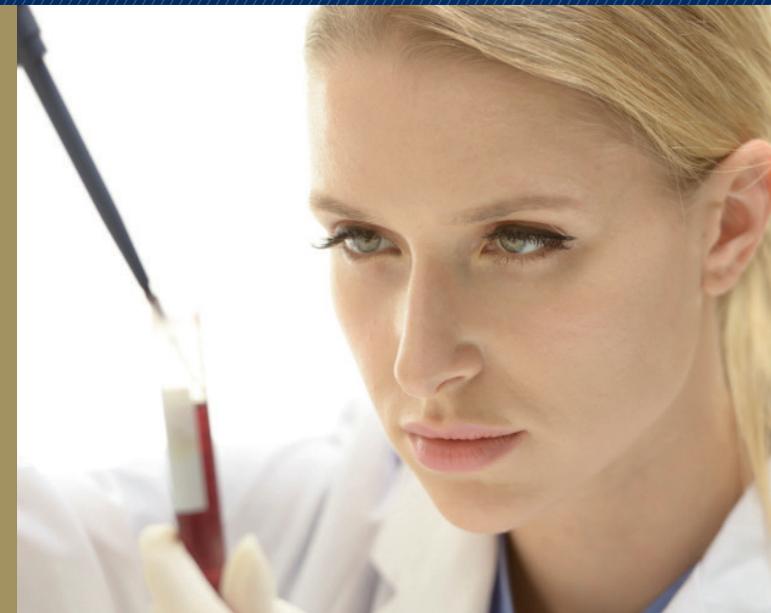
ESfEQA is a German company based in Heidelberg and accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010 by the German Accreditation Body DAkkS. ESfEQA offers more than 90 External Quality Assessment programs in Biochemistry, Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, and Educational Programs.

Please visit our website for more information.

Ask your local distributor or ESfEQA how to get enrolled in the ESfEQA External Quality Assessment Schemes.

CSF DIAGNOSTICS ANTIBODY INDEX (AI) 2022

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EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

CSF Diagnostics - Antibody Index (AI)

Borrelia IgG-Antibody Index (AI)
Borrelia IgM-Antibody Index (AI)
TBEV IgG- Antibody Index (AI)
TBEV IgM- Antibody Index (AI)

more programs currently in development



Background

In CSF diagnostics, the determination of intrathecal antibody synthesis of pathogen-specific antibodies after the onset of the humoral immune response can be used to diagnose CNS infections. This analysis is performed by calculating the antibody index (AI) for specific antibodies detected and quantified in the CSF and serum of a patient (CSF/serum sample pair), respectively.

To support medical laboratories in their quality assurance, ESfEQA is expanding its range of proficiency testing programs in this area of CSF diagnostics. Following the successful introduction of the Borrelia AI programs in 2021, EQA programs for TBE virus IgG and IgM will also be offered in 2022.

Samples

Each EQA program for CSF diagnostics - Antibody Index (AI) includes a CSF/serum sample pair and (simulated) clinical information about the patient which is required for the calculation of the antibody index. The samples are of 100% human origin and liquid stable at 2-8 °C. The CSF samples are spiked with antibodies from suitable serum material. The sample volume is at least 0.3 mL for the serum sample and 1.0 mL for the CSF sample.

Schedule and Registration

The ESfEQA EQA surveys for the determination of AIs for pathogen-specific antibodies are conducted twice a year. An EQA program is ordered for a full calendar year.

PROGRAM CODE	FREQUENCY	PARAMETERS
BOR-G-AI	bi-annual	Borrelia IgG-AI
BOR-M-AI	bi-annual	Borrelia IgM-AI
TBEV-G-AI	bi-annual	TBE Virus IgG-AI
TBEV-M-AI	bi-annual	TBE Virus IgM-AI

Two surveys are planned for 2022:

April 25 - May 16, 2022 and
October 31 - November 21, 2022

Please register as early as possible, at least 3 months before the start of measurement, by contacting your ESfEQA distributor or ESfEQA directly at info@esfeqa.eu. Late registrations can still be considered if samples are available.

Submission of Results

Participants in ESfEQA schemes can enter their results online until the end of the testing period. The login credentials for the web-based result submission and data evaluation system TEQA will be sent to the participants by ESfEQA after ordering and registration. Participants that are already registered for ESfEQA programs can use their existing login credentials.

ESfEQA Reports and Certificates

Reports with a detailed statistical analysis are provided as PDF-files to each participant via the TEQA web application. This includes the assessment of the laboratory performance in comparison to participants that have used the same, but also other analytical methods and reagents. Moreover, the reports contain specific comments on the evaluation and conclusions for a better understanding of the survey results.

Certificates are provided as PDF-files for download from the TEQA web application as well.

Reports and certificates are made available within 3 weeks after the closing date for the result submission.

Participation

Please check with your ESfEQA distributor in your country or with ESfEQA directly about the price information for the programs. The ESfEQA surveys are designed for annual subscription. Orders generally include the survey samples up to the end of the current calendar year.

As far as possible, the Antibody Index samples will be sent together with samples for other ESfEQA programs in a single shipment to keep the effort and costs of shipping as low as possible.

By registering, participants agree to the General Terms and Conditions of ESfEQA, which can be found on the ESfEQA website (www.esfeqa.eu).

We are looking forward to your participation!