ESfEQA
European Society for External Quality Assessment

Survey for antibodies against Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)

EQA Provider: ESfEQA GmbH Heidelberg

Survey Coordinator: Dr. D. Groche

Instructions for Use

Notes:

The samples should be considered as potentially infectious. The usual precautions in the laboratory for potential hazardous samples apply for these samples. The blood donations used for production were found to be non-reactive for HBsAg, anti-HIV 1/2 and anti-HCV. The samples should be used by trained personnel only.

WARNING: Contains methylisothiazolones.

H317 May cause allergic skin reaction.

This product contains human source material and should be considered as potentially infectious.

Various tasks of the proficiency testing scheme may occasionally be given over to qualified subcontractors. However, ESfEQA is responsible to the participants for the subcontractor's work.

Results from sample analysis may only be disclosed to colleagues from other laboratories after the testing period has been concluded.

By registering for and participating in this EQA participants agree to accept the general terms and conditions of ESfEQA GmbH. These can be retrieved online at www.esfeqa.eu.

1. Intended Use

The samples are intended for use as qualitative and quantitative control material for External Quality Assessment (EQA) in medical laboratories for the following analytes:

anti-VZV IgA, IgG and IgM

Please note that, in general, we will not issue a certificate of successful participation for the quantitative determination of anti-VZV antibodies since the target values are reagent-specific and a bias to the calculated consensus value does not necessarily represent a poor laboratory performance. The statistical evaluation is for information purposes only.

2. Product Description

The liquid samples derive from defibrinated human plasma and are ready-to-use.

3. Storage and Stability

The samples should be stored upright at 2-8 °C. They are stable at least until the deadline for data submission as indicated on the sample labels.

4. Sample Preparation and Analysis

Allow the sample to equilibrate to room temperature for 15 minutes prior to testing. Directly before use, agitate the sample by gently inverting the vial several times.

All samples should be treated the same way as patient samples and analyzed in accordance with the instructions of the instrument and reagent manufacturer.

Line-Blot users: Please note that VZV antibody negative survey samples might also be non-reactive in the Ig-Isotype reactivity control on the Line-Blot. In such cases, please report the result for VZV antibodies as obtained from the profile of the specific bands.

Quantitative analysis: For measurement results below/ above the measuring range of the instrument, the lower/ upper measuring limit should be reported as a quantitative value. Please do not further dilute the sample in case of obtaining measurement results above the measuring range.

5. Dates and Submission of Test Results

Testing Periods: Please refer to the sample labels. Results can be submitted anytime within the testing period indicated on the sample labels.

Please submit your results electronically to ESfEQA at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu.

Contact your local distributor of ESfEQA programs or ESfEQA directly if you need assistance with registration in TEQA. Alternatively, though not preferred, use the result form provided on the ESfEQA website. In both cases indicate the instrument and method used for the analysis of the samples.

6. Deadline for Data Submission

The deadlines for submitting results are indicated on the sample labels (time zone GMT +1).

7. Reports and Certificates

The data will be evaluated by ESfEQA.

The individual laboratory reports and certificates can be retrieved online at https://teqa.esfeqa.eu. The reports and certificates will be available within 3 weeks after the deadline of data submission.

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