

TPHA TEST KIT

For the detection of antibodies to *T.pallidum* in human Serum using micro haemagglutination.

IVD For In-Vitro diagnostic and professional use only

2°C 8°C
Store at 2° to 8° C

INTENDED USE

TPHA test kit is designed for the detection of antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* (IgG and IgM antibodies) in human serum or plasma based on the principle of passive haemagglutination.

INTRODUCTION

Syphilis is a venereal disease caused by the spirochaete micro-organism *Treponema pallidum*. As this organism cannot be cultured on artificial media the diagnosis of syphilis depends on the correlation of clinical data with the specific antibody demonstrated by serological tests. Serological screening tests for syphilis using cardiolipin and lecithin as antigens are simple to perform but biological false positive (BFP) reactions occur frequently because the tests use non-treponemal antigens.

The TPI and FTA-ABS tests utilize pathogenic *Treponema pallidum* as the antigen but these tests present some difficulties for routine serodiagnosis. The TPI test requires living pathogenic *T.Pallidum* and the FTA-ABS test requires a fluorescence microscope. Both tests require a high level of expertise.

TPHA test kit has been shown to be a convenient and specific test for the diagnosis of treponemal infection, having specificity similar to that of the TPI test and sensitivity comparable to that of the FTA-ABS test. It requires minimum laboratory equipment and is very simple to perform.

TPHA reagents are used to detect human serum antibody to *T.pallidum* by means of an indirect haemagglutination (IHA) method. Preserved avian erythrocytes are coated with antigenic components of pathogenic *T.pallidum* (Nichol's strain). These Test Cells agglutinate in the presence of specific antibodies to *T.pallidum*, and show characteristic patterns in microtitration plates.

Any non-specific reactions occurring are detected using the Control Cells, which are avian erythrocytes not coated with *T.pallidum* antigens. Non-specific reactions may also be absorbed out using these Control Cells. Antibodies to non-pathogenic treponemes are absorbed by an extract of Reiter's treponemes, included in the cell suspension. Test results are

obtained in 45-60 minutes and the cell agglutination patterns are both easily read and long lasting.

The test sample is diluted in absorbing diluent to remove possible cross-reacting heterophile antibody and to remove, block, or absorb potentially cross-reacting. Nonpathogenic treponemal antibodies.

MATERIALS

MATERIALS PROVIDED

- Test cells; preserved avian erythrocytes sensitised with *T.pallidum* antigen.
- Control cells; preserved avian erythrocyte.
- Diluent.
- Positive control serum; (prediluted 1:20), Use neat. This will give an equivalent titer of 1/640:/2560 in the quantitative test.
- Negative control serum; (prediluted 1:20), Use neat.
- Package Insert.

MATERIALS NEEDED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- Accurate pipettes for delivering 10:25:75 and 190 microlitres.
- U-Well microtitration plates.

PRECAUTIONS

The reagents and controls contain 0.1% sodium azide as a preservative. Avoid ingestion and contact with skin or mucus membrane. Normal laboratory precautions should be maintained while handling test reagents.

REAGENTS HANDELING

- All the reagents must be allowed to reach room temperature before use.
- Do not freeze any of the reagents.
- Do not use heamolysed, contaminated or lipaemic serum or plasma for testing as this will adversely affect the results.

REAGENTS STORAGE

- The kit should be stored at 2-8° C in an upright position at all times.
- Under these conditions, kit performance characteristics will be maintained for at least 15 or 18 months from date of manufacture. See expiry date on kit label.
- Reagents should be discarded if they become contaminated or do not demonstrate correct activity with the controls.
- The reagents in each kit have been standardized to produce the proper reaction and reagents should not be interchanged with those from other batches.

SAMPLE PREPARATION

- The test is designed for use with serum only.

- Plasma samples should not be used.
- The samples should be free from haemolysis and contamination.
- Serum samples may be stored at 2-8° C if a preservative is added prior to storage.
- For long term storage sera should be stored at -20° C Strictly avoid contaminating any of the reagents or serum dilutions with saliva. This will cause confusing patterns similar to positive results with specimens which should be negative.

PROCEDURES

QUALITATIVE METHOD

Each sample requires 3 wells of a microtitration plate.

1. Add 190µl of diluent to Well 1.
2. Add 10µl serum to Well 1. (Sample dilution 1:20).
3. Using a micropipette, mix contents of Well 1 and transfer 25µl to Wells 2 & 3.
4. Ensure that the Test and Control Cells are thoroughly resuspended. Add 75µl of control cells to Well 2. Add 75µl of Test Cells to Well 3.
5. Tap the plate gently to mix the contents thoroughly.
6. Incubate 45-60 minutes at room temperature.
7. Caution! Keep the plate away from heat, direct sunlight and any source of vibration.
8. Read results. Results are stable for 24hrs if the plate is covered and the above precautions are observed.

NOTE

Kit controls can be run in parallel and are diluted and ready for use.

QUANTITATIVE TEST

Each sample requires 8 Wells of a microtitration plate, Labeled A through to H.

1. Add 25µl of diluent to Wells B to H inclusive.
2. Transfer 25µl of 1:20 serum dilution from screening test to Wells A and B.
3. Take 25µl of diluted serum from Well B and serially dilute from Wells B to H inclusive in 25µl aliquots, discarding 25µl of diluted serum from Well H.
4. Ensure that the Test Cells are thoroughly resuspended. Add 75µl of Test cells to wells A to H inclusive. This will give a dilution of serum of 1/ 80 in well A through 1/ 10240 Well H.
5. Shake the plate gently to mix the contents thoroughly.
6. Incubate for 45-60 minutes at room temperature.
7. Caution! Keep the plate away from heat, direct sunlight and any source of vibration.
8. Read results. Results are stable for 24hrs. if the plate is covered and the above precautions are observed.

RESULTS

RESULTS	TEST CELLS	CONTROL CELLS
Strong Positive	Full cell pattern covering the bottom of the well.	No agglutination tight button
Weak Positive	Cell pattern covers approx. 1/3 of well bottom	No agglutination tight button
Indeterminate	Cell pattern shows a distinctly open center	No agglutination tight button
Negative	Cells settled to a compact bottom, typically with a small clear center.	No agglutination tight button
Non-specific *	Positive reaction	Positive reaction

Non-specific absorption *

1. Add 10µl to a small tube then add 190µl of Control Cells. Mix well and stand for 30 minutes.
2. Centrifuge for 15 minutes at 1000 rpm and test the supernatant by the qualitative method.

Note:

If the result is repeatedly non-specific the sample should be tested by another method eg. Reagin or FTA-Abs.

Although TPHA test is highly specific, **false positive results** have been known to occur in patients suffering from leprosy, infectious mononucleosis and connective tissue disorders. For confirmation FTA-Abs test should be used.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS.

Strong positive reactions may show some folding at the edge of the cell mat.

When the Test well is positive, the Control well should be observed. The Control cells should settle to a compact button. They should not be used as a comparison for Non-Reactive serum patterns since the Control Cells will give a more compact pattern than the Test Cells.

Weak positive may show partially not full cell pattern cover the well bottom

INVALID may show Agglutination in the Control well indicates the presence of non-specific agglutinins in the sample. A serum that gives this result may be absorbed using the Control Cells as detailed under Non-specific absorption.

INDETERMINATE may show a doubtful reaction with Test Cells This result may indicate a low level of antibody in early primary syphilis or yaws. This sample should be first retested in the qualitative test then a further sample should be tested at a later date to determine whether or

not there is a rising titer. It is also advisable to perform a regain test and/or another confirmation test (FTA-Abs) to complete the profile of the test serum.

Negative may show cells settled as a dot at the bottom of the well

PERFORMANCE

SENSITIVITY

With clinical samples when compared to FTA-Abs and/or clinical diagnosis was 99.7% (298/299)

SPECIFICITY

With clinical samples was 99.3% (301/303).

CROSS REACTIVITY

Reactive results may indicate an active or successfully treated infection. The following have all been shown not to interfere with the test results (10 clinical samples of each)

- Rheumatoid Factor.
- Post Hepatitis B vaccination.
- Genital Herpes.
- Leptospirosis.
- EBV Infection.
- SLE.
- Lyme's Disease.

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REF	Catalogue Number		Store at
IVD	For In-Vitro Diagnostic use		Caution
	Number of tests in the pack		Read product insert before use
LOT	Lot (batch) number		Manufacturer
	Fragile, handle with care		Expiry date
	Manufacturer fax number		Do not use if package is damaged
	Manufacturer telephone number		