

TEST:	Syphilis -VDRL
Synonym:	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory
Laboratory/Phone:	443-681-3938/3931
Turnaround Time:	5 days
Specimen Required:	Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
Specimen identification:	Label tube with patients first and last name
Specimen Volume (Optimum):	2 ml.
Specimen Volume (Minimum):	1 ml.
Collect:	
Form:	DHMH 4677
Packaging and Shipping:	See packaging for transport instructions in Guide
Transport Conditions:	2-8°C (refrigerated) or -20°C (frozen).
Specimen Rejection Criteria:	Hemolysis; insufficient volume
Availability:	Monday through Friday
Results and Interpretation:	<p>NON-REACTIVE-- indicates that the patient does not have detectable antibody to the infectious agent.</p> <p>REACTIVE-- VDRL test on CSF, free of blood or other contaminants, almost always indicates past or present syphilis infection of the central nervous system.</p>
Reference Range:	Nonreactive
Additional Information:	This test is only performed on Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
Purpose of Test:	Detect antibodies which may be due to syphilis
Methods:	Slide flocculation test
Interfering Substances:	blood
Testing Site:	DHMH Laboratories Administration, Central Laboratory, Baltimore, MD
Comment:	The VDRL is a non-treponemal test to detect lipoidal antigen to <i>T. pallidum</i>. VDRL is run on spinal fluid specimens only, for suspected