− Infections

Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms; such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites. Many organisms live in and on our bodies. They're normally harmless or even helpful, but some organisms under certain conditions may cause disease.

Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person while some are transmitted via bites from insects or animals. Others are acquired by ingesting contaminated food or water or other exposures in the environment.

Signs and symptoms vary, but often include fever and chills. Mild complaints may respond to home remedies, while some life-threatening infections may require hospitalization.

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Fungal Infections

A fungus is a primitive organism. Mushrooms, mold and mildew are examples. Fungi live in air, in soil, on plants and in water. Some live in the human body. Only about half of all types of fungi are harmful. Some fungi reproduce through tiny spores in the air. You can inhale the spores or they can land on you. As a result, fungal infections often start in the lungs or on the skin. You are more likely to get a fungal infection if you have a weakened immune system or take antibiotics. Fungi can be difficult to kill. For skin and nail infections, you can apply medicine directly to the infected area. Oral antifungal medicines are also available for serious infections.

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− COCCIDIOIDES A... <1:2

Range: See Comments

COCCIDIOIDES AB, CF,SERUM

Result Comments

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REFERENCE RANGE:  <1:2

          INTERPRETIVE CRITERIA:
                       <1:2  Antibody Not Detected
                       > or = 1:2  Antibody Detected

All serum titers > or = 1:2 should be considered
evidence indicative of coccidioidomycosis,
although titers of 1:2 and 1:4 should be confirmed
by immunodiffusion testing. Titers exceeding 1:16
usually reflect disseminated disease. In general,
higher titers are correlated with disease severity,
and changes in serial titers are of prognostic value
A negative CF test does not, however, rule out the
diagnosis. Only 70% of patients with cavitary disease
are positive, and only 30% of patients with nodular
disease are positive.

This test was developed and its analytical performance
characteristics have been determined by Quest Diagnostics.
It has not been cleared or approved by FDA. This assay has
been validated pursuant to the CLIA regulations and is used
for clinical purposes.
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- COCCIDIOIDES A... NEGATIVE

Range: See Comments

COCCIDIOIDES AB (IGG), IMMUNODIFFUSION, SERUM

Result Comments

REFERENCE RANGE: NEGATIVE

INTERPRETIVE CRITERIA:
NEGATIVE: Antibody Not Detected
POSITIVE: Antibody Detected

The immunodiffusion (ID) procedure correlates both in sensitivity and clinical utility with the CF test. The ID test, which detects IgG directed to the "F" antigen, becomes positive within 4 weeks after infection and remains positive throughout clinically active disease. It is most useful in confirming the specificity of low CF titers, where lines of identity are formed with reference antisera. Positive ID reactions are diagnostic for coccidioidomycosis and usually indicate active or recent disease and remain detectable for up to 1 year thereafter.