

DIRECT DETECTION FOR NUCLEIC ACID OF M. TUBERCULOSIS COMPLEX – XPERT MTB/RIF ASSAY

Synonym(s): TB PCR, Xpert MTB/RIF Assay

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Lab Section Category	Mycobacteriology Click here to find out more about the write-up (/clinical-departments-centers/pathology/pathology-handbook/lab-discipline-special-instructions/pages/mycobacteriology.aspx).
Specimen Required	As for Mycobacterial Culture, except that blood and bone marrow specimens should be collected in sterile screw-capped containers or plain Vacutainer tubes (NOT in Myco-F-Lytic vials) and delivered to the lab immediately. If delay is unavoidable, collect in EDTA or citrated tubes, though amplification results may be less consistent.
Storage and Transport	Collect in a dedicated container. Do not order non-CTBL tests using the same request form and on the same specimen. Specimens should reach CTBL within 24 hours of collection. If transport delay is unavoidable, store at 4 ⁰ C.
Method	Xpert MTB/RIF Assay using Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction
Test Result	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> complex DNA detected / Not detected / Indeterminate Mutation in <i>rpoB</i> gene leading to Rifampicin resistance detected / Not detected (Note : Test for Rifampicin resistance has not been validated in-house)
Turnaround Time	1-2 working days
Day(s) Test Set up	Monday through Friday
Remarks	Reflex Testing: These tests only provide preliminary information for empirical TB management. A reflex AFB culture, including an AFB smear for respiratory samples if the volume is adequate, is also set up for each specimen. These additional tests are chargeable. Written instruction from the doctor is necessary if these are not to be performed.

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Change History Notes

- **29 Apr 2016 05:14 PM**
Add in Indeterminate for test result.
Amend Turnaround time into 1-2 working days

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