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Neurosciences Group

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Mailing samples for antibody tests

One ml serum taken from a clotted sample, or plasma from an EDTA, heparin or citrate sample, are all suitable. Does not need to be frozen if it is clean and unhaemolysed, and if it arrives within two to three days. This applies to patient's serum or maternal serum (for investigation of neurodevelopmental disorders). Tests available are described on the next page.

Send in screw-top polypropylene tube that can withstand drop in air pressure (if coming by air). Best tubes are Sarstedt cat no 72.894.007.

***Put all tubes into a leak-proof sealed container; include absorbent material to absorb any spillage.**

***Put the leak-proof container into an external package strong enough to withstand trauma.**

PLEASE:

- **Label all tubes with patient's NAME.**
- **Include with the sample, the name, date of birth, provisional diagnosis or clinical signs, and the test that you require.**
- **Include the name of the referring physician, their address for the results, and also email address and fax number.**
- **Send the paper work with sample but in separate bag which should be uncontaminated with biological material.**
- **For non-routine tests, please ask the patient for signed consent to perform research on their serum, and send copy of consent with the sample if possible.**
- **Mail to Neurosciences Group, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DS. Fax 44 1865 222402 Tel 44 1865 222327/1**

Many thanks for your interest and cooperation. I hope that we can be of help.

Angela Vincent,

Professor of Neuroimmunology, Honorary Consultant in Neuroimmunology

Antibody tests available Jan 2004

Antigen (antibody; technique)	Associated Disorder	Antibody Positivity	Performed	Cost
Acetylcholine Receptor (anti-AChR; RIA) IgG	Myasthenia Gravis: Generalised Ocular	85% 50%	Weekly	£17.50 NHS £25 private or overseas
MuSK (anti-MuSK; RIA) IgG	Generalised AChR antibody negative Myasthenia Gravis (15% of all MG patients approx)	up to 50% of AChR neg MG (variable)	Fortnightly	£30.00
Voltage gated Ca ²⁺ channel (anti-VGCC; RIA) IgG	Lambert-Eaton Syndrome (with or without SCLC) Cerebellar ataxia ass with SCLC	>85% Around 30%	Weekly	£30.00
Voltage gated K ⁺ channel (anti-VGKC; RIA) IgG	Acquired neuromyotonia Limbic encephalitis-like syndromes (both sometimes associated with thymoma or SCLC)	40% Not known	Monthly	£30.00
Ganglioside (GM1) (anti-GM1; ELISA) IgG and IgM (combined)	Guillain Barre Syndrome (IgG) Multifocal motor neuropathy (IgM)	~40% ~60%	Weekly	£10 NHS £25 private or overseas
Ganglioside (GQ1b) (anti-GQ1b; ELISA) IgG and IgM (combined)	Miller-Fisher syndrome (IgG) Chronic sensory neuropathy (IgM)	>90% Some	Weekly	£10 NHS £25 private or overseas
Glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) (anti GAD; RIA) IgG	High levels >300 U/ml in Stiff-man syndrome Cerebellar ataxia (usually with other autoimmune disorders) Low levels <100 U/ml in Diabetes	~60% Not known	Weekly	£15 NHS £25 private or overseas
Myelin associated glycoprotein (MAG) (anti-MAG; ELISA) IgM	Chronic sensory neuropathies	Some	Fortnightly	£25 NHS £40 private or overseas
Markers for Paraneoplastic neurological syndromes (Hu; ANNA 1) (Yo; APCA 1) (Ri; ANNA 2) (Ma (Ma2/Ta)) (Amphiphysin) (CRMP/CV2)	Most common presentation (most frequent associated tumours) Subacute sensory neuropathy/limbic encephalitis (SCLC) Cerebellar degeneration (gynaecological) Opsoclonus/Myoclonus and other (breast) Limbic encephalitis and other syndromes (testicular and other cancers) Opsoclonus, ataxia (breast, SCLC) Various (various)	Variable	Weekly Confirmation of positive results using western blotting on recombinant protein or tissue extracts is included	£45 NHS £45 private or overseas