Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Quantitative PCR, Plasma: New Assay

Date: November 9th, 2021

Effective Date: December 6th, 2021

The Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will offer a new polymerase chain reaction (PCR) viral load assay for the quantification of Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) DNA in plasma. The assay will be performed in-house using an FDA-authorized test calibrated to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Standard for EBV. In patients who are being monitored for EBV viral load, serial measurements can be used to assess response to treatment interventions. This test should not be used to screen asymptomatic patients.

This test is intended for the quantification of EBV DNA levels in plasma to aid in the management of EBV in transplant patients. Evolving evidence indicates that EBV viral load measurement using plasma is more specific for EBV-related disease and can reduce the detection of latent EBV DNA frequently detected in healthy people. While elevated EBV viral load may serve as a marker of post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD), the diagnosis of PTLD requires histological evaluation of tissue biopsy.

Test name: Epstein-Barr Virus, Quantitative PCR, Plasma
Test code: EBVQ
Sample type: EDTA plasma
Quantitative range: 35.0 IU/mL to 100,000,000.0 IU/mL
Genotypes detected: EBV genotypes 1 and 2
Turn-around-time: 1 – 4 days.

For questions or additional information, please contact Lindsay Ryan (Serology supervisor, Lindsay_Ryan-muntz@URMC.Rochester.edu) or Andrew Cameron, PhD.

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