

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
NEW TEST ANNOUNCEMENT

CYCLIC CITRULLINATED PEPTIDE IGG ANTIBODY

Beginning May 1, 2008, a test for Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide IgG Antibody will be performed in the Special Testing division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. The presence of these antibodies, when considered in conjunction with other laboratory and clinical findings, is an aid in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis.

The traditional Rheumatoid Factor test (IgM antibody against IgG) for RA has been used for many years. It lacks both sensitivity and specificity. Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide (CCP) antibody has been found to be better at discriminating RA patients from other patients than either the anti-keratin antibody or other tests for rheumatoid factor. The procedure uses CCP third generation antigen which shows approximately 5% greater sensitivity at detecting RA patients than the second generation CCP2, while maintaining a very high specificity.

Approximately 77% of patients with RA are positive for anti-CCP, while an average of 3% of non-RA subjects are positive. The diagnostic value of anti-CCP3 in Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis patients has not been determined.

Interpretation:

Less than 20 units Negative
20-39 units Weak Positive
40-59 units Moderate Positive
60 units or greater Strong Positive

Specimen requirement: 0.5 ml serum from red top tube
Turn Around Time: 2-3 days

For questions or further information, please contact Stephen Lee, M.D. (310) 423-5471