



Giardia Antibodies in Serum

Specimen Type	Serum		
Specimen Volume	1 mL		
Collection	Red top tube with no additives or serum gel tube. Let sit for 30 minutes. Centrifuge at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. Remove serum and freeze immediately.		
Minimum Volume	0.5 mL		
Handling	Ship frozen on dry ice.		
Rejection Criteria	Specimens with bacterial or fungal contamination. Specimens outside of listed stability.		
Stability	Refrigerated for 7 days. Frozen for 5 weeks.		
Methodology	ELISA		
Reference Ranges	Isotype	Negative	
	IgA	< 22.2 U/mL	
	IgG	< 28.3 U/mL	
	IgM	< 25.0 U/mL	
Turnaround Time	Up to 7 business days.		
CPT Code	86674 x 3		
Clinical Significance	<p>Giardiasis is a diarrheal illness caused by <i>Giardia lamblia</i>. Once a person has been infected with <i>Giardia</i>, the parasite lives in the intestine and is passed in the stool. <i>Giardia</i> is found in soil, food, and water that have been contaminated with the feces of infected animals. Because the organism is protected by an outer shell, it can survive outside the body in the environment for long periods of time.</p> <p>Because it is spread worldwide, it has become one of the most important causes of chronic diarrhea. Despite the fact that it is a luminal pathogen, it evokes both systemic and local immune responses. Studies have found that about 86% of infected individuals develop serum antibodies against <i>Giardia lamblia</i>, most notably IgG and IgA.</p>		
Principle	<p>Standards, controls, and unknown samples are added to microtiter wells that are coated with a highly purified <i>Giardia lamblia</i> antigen. The antigen binds anti-<i>Giardia</i> IgX antibodies and unbound constituents are washed away.</p> <p>An HRP conjugated antibody which specifically recognizes human IgX is then added. After an incubation period, the excess conjugate is washed away and a substrate (TBM) is added. After incubation, a stop solution is added and the microplate is read on a spectrophotometer. The absorbance of a well at 450 nm is directly proportional to the amount of anti-<i>Giardia</i> IgX antibodies present.</p>		