

RESPIRATORY VIRUS PCR TESTING

Advances in testing for the diagnosis of acute respiratory tract infections.



Australian Clinical Labs' Multiplex PCR respiratory assay detects 15 viral and bacterial respiratory pathogens improving identification of the causative agent and allowing the clinician to instigate appropriate treatment in a timely manner.

The young, the elderly and patients with compromised cardiac, pulmonary or immune systems are at greatest risk of serious disease. Approximately 15% of pneumonias in children are caused by Parainfluenza Virus whilst an additional 20% are due to Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infection. RSV is the most commonly identified agent in 75% of children under two years of age who are hospitalised for bronchiolitis.

Early identification is vital to support timely clinical management and minimize progression to more serious illness.

Benefits to the patient

Assists in the specific and differential diagnosis of acute respiratory tract infections.

- Increased assay specificity and sensitivity improves the accuracy and speed of diagnosis.
- Enables the clinician to instigate earlier targeted treatment of viral or bacterial infections avoiding inappropriate antibiotic therapy.

Tests available

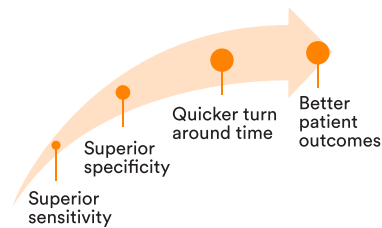
- Influenza A & B
- RSV (A & B)
- Parainfluenza 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Influenza A H1N1 2009 (Swine)
- Influenza A H5N1 (Avian)
- Human Metapneumovirus
- Human Adenovirus
- Human Rhinovirus
- Bordetella pertussis
- Chlamydomphila pneumoniae
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae

Two respiratory PCR assays are run concurrently to provide both routine screening of Influenza / RSV requests and an extended panel covering 15 respiratory viruses / bacteria from the list above

Samples required

- Nose/throat or nasopharyngeal swab(s) or
- Nasopharyngeal/tracheal aspirates or
- Sputum

Sensitivity of testing



99.8%

Viral Testing

100%

Bacterial Testing

Test frequency

Flu Season:

Both our Flu A/B and RSV screening assay and our extended respiratory multiplex PCR assays are performed daily Monday to Friday.

If simple Influenza or RSV infection is suspected order tests (a) and (b) from the test menu.

If investigation for the full panel of respiratory infective agents is required order Respiratory PCR or 'RV PCR'.

Swine and avian influenza

Our Respiratory Virus PCR assay will detect both the H1N1 and the H5N1 strains of Influenza A (Swine and Avian respectively).

Cost

Medicare bulk billing available and subject to Medicare guidelines and criteria.



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