Hepatitis A, HAV

General:

Hepatitis A virus (HAV), is an RNA virus from the group of picornaviruses. In Germany about 20% of all virus hepatitidae are caused by HAV. Underdeveloped countries show a much higher frequency up to 90%. The transmission occurs fecal-orally by contaminated water, food, raw seafood as well as sexually. The incubation period is 14-45 days. Infectiosity corresponds to the HAV excretion in stool (approx. 2 weeks before and up to 2 weeks after the beginning of the disease). After complete healing the HAV-IgM disappear, it does not result in chronic hepatitis and a lifelong immunity remains with detectable HAV-IgG antibodies.

The following tests are available:

- **Hepatitis A virus antibodies (IgG and IgM combined)**

  Indication: acute or recent infection, immune status after vaccination
  Material: 1 ml serum
  Stability: 14 days at 2 to 8°C
  TAT: same day, FML
  Method: ECLIA
  Units: qualitative
  Ref.- range: negative
  Note: If the patient is taking multivitamins or dietary supplements containing high dose of Biotin (> 5 mg), the patient should stop taking it for at least 24 hours , before having the blood collection.

- **Hepatitis A virus IgM antibodies**

  Indication: Suspicion of hepatopathy, unclear increase of transaminases, status before vaccination, suspicion of acute Hepatitis A.
  Material: 1 ml serum
  Stability: 7 days at 2 to 8°C
  TAT: same day, FML
  Method: ECLIA
  Units: S/CO
  Ref.- range: <1.0

Note: If the patient is taking multivitamins or dietary supplements containing high dose of Biotin (> 5 mg), the patient should stop taking it for at least 24 hours , before having the blood collection.

- **Hepatitis A virus antigen in stool**

Material: 5 g stool
TAT: 7-10 days*
Method: PCR
Units: see report

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/