

Leptospires

General:

Leptospire belongs to spirochetes. *Leptospira interrogans* is subdivided into numerous serotypes. Rodents, dogs, pigs, rats, cattle and hedgehogs are the main reservoir. The incubation period of leptospirosis infections is between 3-30 days (Morbus Weil).

Clinical symptoms of the first phase are high fever, headaches, rheumatic pains, myalgia (particularly in calves), and conjunctivitis. After a symptom free interval (few days), the second phase appears with lymphadenitis, liver damage, nephritis, carditis, meningitis or icterus. The complete syndrome can also appear in a mild form like influenza. Further disorders, which are also caused by leptospire, are the slime-, field-, harvest-, ice field- and canicola fever. Sewage workers, pet owners and butchers are particularly endangered.

The following tests are available:

- **Leptospira IgM antibodies**

Indication: suspicion of acute leptospira infection, unclear hepatitis, icterus (occupational anamnesis), meningitis

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: ELISA

Units: U/ml

Ref.- range: <15

- **Leptospira IgG antibodies**

Indication: suspicion of leptospira infection, unclear hepatitis, icterus (occupational anamnesis), meningitis

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: ELISA

Units: U/ml

Ref.- range: < 9



- **Leptospira DNA (PCR)**

Indication: suspicion of acute leptospira infection

Material: 2 ml EDTA blood

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: PCR

Ref.- range: negative

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