

Measles

General:

Measles belong to the *paramyxoviridae* family. They are a worldwide common infectious disease for all age groups. After an incubation time of 10-12 days the disorder starts with an uncharacteristic cold of the upper respiratory tract and the conjunctivae. In addition fever develops, occasionally vomiting or cramp attacks might occur. On the 2nd -3rd day, spots appear on the mucous membranes of the cheeks, an enanthema at the soft palate as well as urticaria. After a few days the second stage starts with exanthema spreading over the whole body, which is accompanied by fever. Within 1-2 days the infection starts to fade. The infectiousness of the disorder disappears at the same time. Complications can be: measles pneumonia, measles croup, measles otitis, encephalitis.

Pregnancy: measles (and mumps) infections during pregnancy are rare because most mothers are protected (immune). However, if there is any contact, the immunity status should be determined, and in seronegative pregnant women a passive prophylaxis should be performed with immunoglobulin. Early prophylaxis will prevent major problems.

The following tests are available:

- **Measles antibody screening**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 5-7 days*

Method: KBR

Units: Titer

Ref.- range: <1:8

- **Measles IgM antibodies**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 5-7 days*

Method: EIA

Units: Index

Ref.- range: <1.0

- **Measles IgG antibodies**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 5-7 days*

Method: EIA

Units: IU/L

Ref.- range: <150

- **Measles antibodies in CSF (index)**

Indication: Exclusion of a measles meningitis/encephalitis with suspected cerebral symptoms and/or a seropositive result for measles antibodies

Material: 1 ml serum + 1 ml CSF

TAT: 5-7 days*

Method: EIA

Units: see report

Ref.- range: see report

- **Measles antigen by PCR**

Indication: suspicion of an acute infection with Measles virus

Material: 3 ml EDTA blood or 1 ml CSF

TAT: 5-7 days*

Method: PCR

Units: see report

Ref.- range: see report

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