

Varicella Zoster (VZV) Viral Culture, Rapid

Order Name: **C Varicella**
Test Number: 6000555
Revision Date: 03/18/2024

TEST NAME	METHODOLOGY	LOINC CODE
Varicella Zoster (VZV) Viral Culture, Rapid	Shell Vial Culture	

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Specimen	Specimen Volume (min)	Specimen Type	Specimen Container	Transport Environment
Preferred	See Instructions	See Instructions	Viral Transport Media	Refrigerated

Instructions

Specimen Source: Vesicle fluid, vesicle scrapings

Container: Viral, Chlamydia, or Mycoplasma culture transport provided by LabCorp, or other appropriate transport medium. Smears of vesicle fluid may also be submitted for DFA at additional charge [test 185009]. **Keep specimens Refrigerated and moist.**

Specimen Collection: Do NOT prepare collection site with alcohol or iodophors. Vesicle fluid from several vesicles can be pooled and added to viral transport medium. Alternatively, the bases of several freshly unroofed lesions can be vigorously sampled with a sterile swab that subsequently should be placed into cold viral transport medium and sent to the laboratory as soon as possible. **Indicate exact specimen source (eg, lesion), on specimen and requisition.**

Causes for Rejection: Bacterial swab specimen; specimen received in grossly leaking transport container; dry specimen; specimen submitted in fixative or additive; specimen received in expired transport media or incorrect transport device; inappropriate specimen transport conditions; specimen received after prolonged delay in transport (usually more than 72 hours); specimen stored or transported at room temperature; wooden shaft swab in transport device; unlabeled specimen or name discrepancy between specimen and request label.

AOE Prompt Code: **VZ Source 5196917**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Expected TAT 5 - 6 days from set up

Clinical Use Varicella-zoster virus is a single virus that causes two diseases: chickenpox (varicella) in children and, after reactivation from latency, shingles (zoster) in adults. Disease caused by VZV is usually self-limited; however, the disease can be life-threatening in pregnant persons, immunocompromised persons, and children who receive cancer therapy. In addition, congenital chickenpox can result in neonatal systemic disease and/or congenital malformations. Serology for the detection of VZV antibodies is available. Rapid turnaround time of serological tests can be especially important in detecting the presence of antibody (prior exposure) in pregnant persons who have been exposed to persons with chickenpox because VZIG should be given within three days (maximum) of exposure. Cell culture of VZV often has been reported to be less sensitive than direct antigen detection of VZV by immunofluorescence.

Performing Labcorp Test Code 186031

Notes
Method: Shell vial or multiwell plate cell cultures stained at 48 hours and 4 days
Synonym: Chickenpox Culture; Culture, Varicella-Zoster Virus; Shingles Culture; VZV Culture

Possible Reflex Order Code: **5196918** .Reflex Viral Identification

RESULT CODE	RESULT NAME	LOINC
5196918	Reflex Viral Identification	615-5

CPT Code(s) 87254 (Possible 87253)

Lab Section Reference Lab