

Meningitis Encephalitis Panel by PCR, New Test Offering

Orderable: Meningitis Encephalitis Panel [LAB1232171]

Effective June 18th, 2024, VCU Health Medical Campus Microbiology Laboratory will begin offering a new test called Meningitis Encephalitis Panel by PCR.

Explanation:

Meningitis Encephalitis Panel by PCR is FDA approved for the detection of bacterial, viral, and fungal causes of meningitis/encephalitis. It is performed directly from CSF collected by lumbar puncture (LP) and offers a rapid turnaround time (~4 hours).

Important: The *Meningitis Encephalitis Panel by PCR* will replace the *Enterovirus in CSF*.

Bacterial Pathogens Detected	Viral Pathogens Detected	Fungal Pathogens Detected
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	<i>Cryptococcus (C. neoformans/C. gattii)</i>
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	Enterovirus (EV)	
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1)	
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	Herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV-2)	
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	Human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6)	
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Human parechovirus (HPeV)	
	Varicella zoster virus (VZV)	

Although test performance is excellent, negative results do not rule out infection. In addition to the Meningitis Encephalitis Panel, the following tests are **strongly** recommended:

- For Bacterial Meningitis
 - CSF Culture [LAB268]
- For HSV Meningitis Encephalitis
 - HSV 1,2 DNA Qualitative (CSF) [LAB917]
 - Especially in children <3 months of age.
- For Cryptococcal meningitis
 - Cryptococcal Antigen, CSF [Lab1231182]
 - Fungus Culture, CSF [Lab1231190]

For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at (804) 828-7284 or Dr. Christopher Doern and Dr. Alexandra Bryson at (804) 628-4000.