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29/07/2019

Dear Service user

Re: Change of technique for the measurement of paraneoplastic antigens by Immunoblot

From the 29/07/2019, the paraneoplastic second line/confirmation testing by immunoblot method used at Oxford Immunology will be changing from the Ravo kit method to the Euroimmun line blot method. The Euroimmun line blot includes 2 additional antigens compared with the Ravo kit method – Titin and Recoverin but does not include Ma1 that is found on the Ravo kit method.

Overall the paraneoplastic antigens that are available for testing at Oxford are as follows:
Anti-Hu
Anti-Yo
Anti-Ri
Anti-Ma2
Anti-CV2/CRMP5
Anti-Amphiphysin
Anti-Zic-4
Anti-Sox-1
Anti-Tr
Anti-Titin
Anti-Recoverin
Anti-GAD65

Full verification of the Euroimmun line blot method has been performed, including the establishment of a positive cut-off, that is different from the kit insert. The reference range being implemented at Oxford has been calculated from testing healthy control samples as well as neuropathy disease control samples on the Euroimmun line blot to determine an appropriate positive cut-off that will increase the specificity of the assay. The assay is now operating to UKAS 015189 standard and will be included on the next extension to scope application placed by Oxford Immunology.

Results from the assay will be reported as:
Positive
Equivocal
Negative

It is recommended that all equivocal results be reviewed in the clinical context of the patient and that further investigations from these results not be performed unless additional evidence is present, indicating that the patient may have an underlying malignancy. If repeat testing is desired, we do not recommend performing this within 3 months after the initial result.

Anti-GAD65 antibodies will not be formally measured by this method. If a sample produces an equivocal or positive result for Anti-GAD65, a comment will be added to the report to highlight this to the user and to recommend requesting GAD antibody testing by the preferred method.

The paraneoplastic screening service at Oxford will continue to test all samples via immunofluorescence initially, with all samples showing potential positive staining on immunofluorescence and samples explicitly requesting certain paraneoplastic antigens, having the immunoblot performed. At this time, the test price for this service will not change nor will the turnaround time of 21 days.

If you have any further questions surrounding this part of our service, please do not hesitate to contact us on the details above

Kind regards

Dr Ross Sadler
Clinical Lead for Laboratory Immunology