

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

Vaccine Evaluation Unit

# Functional antibody to *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B by Serum Bactericidal Antibody Assay (SBA)

## General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Clotted blood sample tube (no preservative)

**Specimen type:** Clotted Blood/serum, paired sera

**Specimen transport:** Ambient temperature via porter, courier, Royal Mail or DX compliant with IATA packing instruction 650

**Minimum volume of sample:** Minimum volume 0.6mL

**Special precautions:** If the serum bactericidal activity is reported with the comment 'SBA titre includes non-complement mediated lysis', then the result must be interpreted with caution. If in doubt, please telephone 0161 276 6791 for advice. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature.

Delays of over 48hr are undesirable.

## Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** SBA Titres expressed as the reciprocal of the final serum dilution giving  $\geq 50\%$  killing at 60 minutes calculated from the number of colony forming units (cfu) in the control

Biological reference units: Not applicable

Turnaround time: 28 Working Days

## Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** For putative protection against serogroup B, the SBA titre must be  $\geq 4$  for at least 2 of the 3 strains used.

**Factors known to significantly affect the results:** As this is a 'killing type' assay using live bacteria, antibiotics can impact on results. A control to monitor this is included in the assay.

The effect and impact of Eculizumab therapy on this assay is currently under investigation

**(Last updated December 2014)**