

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Vaccine Evaluation Unit

Neisseria meningitidis

Functional antibody to serogroups A, C, W and Y by internationally standardised serum bactericidal antibody assays.

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): Clotted Blood/serum,paired sera, no preservatives

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

Minimum volume of sample: Minimum volume 0.2mL per serogroup

Specimen type: Clotted Blood/serum,paired sera

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: The putative protective SBA titre for serogroup C is ≥ 8 . A cut off of ≥ 8 is currently considered protective for serogroups A,Y and W

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.

(Last updated December 2014)