

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Immunology

Acetylcholine receptor antibody

General information

Acts as a confirmatory test for myasthenia gravis.

Specimen transport: At room temperature

Repeat frequency: At change of clinical symptoms

Special precautions: None

Laboratory information

Normal reference range: 0 - 0.44nmol/L

Volume and sample type: 7ml clotted blood

Method: ELISA

Assay Interferences: Do not use lipaemic or haemolysed serum samples.

Turnaround time (calendar days from sample receipt to authorised result): Median - 7

Clinical information

Indications for the test: 90% of patients with generalised myasthenia gravis and about 60-70% of patients with ocular myasthenia have detectable AChR antibodies. Can be used to monitor disease activity, but antibodies may persist in 60% of patients even if disease is in remission.

The assay also detects antibodies to the foetal form of the AChR in mother of fetuses with Arthrogryposis multiplex congenital.

Participation in EQA Scheme: UK NEQAS for Acetylcholine receptor antibody

ICE reference: Acetylcholine Receptor Antibodies

(Last updated March 2021)