

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

Immunology

# Double stranded DNA antibodies (IgG)

## General information

The presence of autoantibodies to double stranded DNA is strongly suggestive of SLE, although they are detected in only 40-60% of patients with this disease.

**Specimen transport:** At room temperature

**Repeat frequency:** We recommend not repeating this test more than once a month, unless the patient is undergoing plasmapheresis

**Special precautions:** None

## Laboratory information

**Normal reference range:** 0-9.9 IU/mL

**Volume and sample type:** 4ml serum

**Method:** Multiplex flow immunoassay and Immunofluorescence

**Participation in EQA Scheme:** Nuclear and Related Antigens

**Turnaround time (calendar days from sample receipt to authorised result):** Median - 2

## Clinical information

**Indications for the test:** Diagnosis and monitoring of lupus

**Factors affecting the test:** We use two assays to detect DNA antibodies:

- Crithidia is a source of pure double stranded DNA and gives a qualitative result
- The multiplex assay can be contaminated by single stranded DNA, but gives quantitative results

The following configurations can be seen:

- Crithidia Positive + multiplex flow immunoassay positive = indicates active lupus
- Crithidia Negative + multiplex flow immunoassay positive = indicates single stranded DNA antibodies, usually triggered by infection or drugs

**(Last updated August 2023)**