

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Immunology

Allergen Specific IgE

General information

Measurement of allergen specific IgE is of value where skin testing is difficult for any reason. Over 100 specific allergens are routinely available. Any requests for allergens that are unusual should be discussed with a clinician.

Specimen transport: At room temperature

Repeat frequency: >1 year unless marked changes in allergic condition

Special precautions: None

Laboratory information

Normal reference range: <0.35 kAU/L

Volume and sample type: 4ml serum (8ml required for multiple allergens)

Method: ImmunoCAP 1000

Turnaround time (calendar days from sample receipt to authorised result): Median – 3

Participation in EQA Scheme: UK NEQAS for Specific IgE and UK NEQAS for Allergen Component Testing

Clinical information

Indications for the test: Allergic conditions when allergen is suspected and mentioned on request

Factors affecting the test: Total IgE >3000ku/L increases the incidence of false positive (low level) specific IgE. IgE <30 ku/L associated with false negative specific IgE. Similarly, very low IgE levels (<2.0 kU/L) may result in a false negative result and possibly indicate an underlying immunodeficiency; measurement of immunoglobulins is recommended.

A STAR in the RAST: Allergy testing guidance for primary care: <https://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/other-departments/laboratory-medicine/information-for-gps/laboratory-medicines-newsletter-for-gps/a-star-in-the-rast-allergy-testing-guidance-for-primary-care/>

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