C Reactive Protein (CRP)
A rapid latex slide test for the detection of CRP in serum

Intended Use
Rapid latex agglutination test for the qualitative screening and semi-quantitative determination of C Reactive Protein (CRP) in human serum.

Background
Tissue-damaging associated with inflammatory diseases, infection and neoplasms are associated with a major acute phase response of the C-reactive protein (CRP) and other acute phase reactants. The CRP response frequently precedes clinical symptoms, including fever. Measuring changes in the concentration of CRP provides useful diagnostic information about how acute and how serious a disease is. It also allows the assessment of complications during the disease and judgement about the disease genesis.

Test Principle
Spectrum CRP latex reagent is a suspension of polystyrene particles sensitized with anti-human CRP. When the latex reagent is mixed with a serum containing C-reactive protein, visible agglutination occurs. The latex reagent has been produced so that agglutination will take place only when the level of CRP is greater than 6 mg/L.

Reagents
Spectrum CRP latex kit contains the following reagents:
- **Latex Reagent (bottle with green cap):** A suspension of polystyrene latex particles in glycine-saline buffer pH: 8.6 ± 0.1, coated with anti-human CRP antibodies.
- **Positive Control Serum (bottle with red cap):** Is prepared from a stabilized human serum pool containing CRP as an antigen. Both reagents contain 0.9 g/L Sodium azide as a preservative.
- **Negative Control Serum (bottle with white cap):** Reagent contain 0.9 g/L Na azide as a preservative.

Slides
**NOTE:** Negative Control Serum, Slides are only included in Complete Kits REF: 514 001 (50 test) & REF: 514 002 (100 test)

Storage & Stability
The reagents are stable up to the expiration date specified when stored at 2 – 8 °C.

Precautions and Warnings
All human blood components used to prepare controls have been tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and HTLV-III antibodies by FDA approved procedure and found to be non-reactive. No known test method for HBsAg or HTLV-III antibodies offers total assurance that a human derived product will not transmit hepatitis or HTLV-III virus. The user is therefore cautioned to handle reagents as if being capable of transmitting these diseases.

Specimen Collection and Preservation
Use only serum specimens, plasma samples are not suitable for the test. Serum samples can be stored for 24 hrs at 2 – 8°C, for longer storage it is recommended to store the samples at -20 °C.

Procedure
**Qualitative Test (Screening)**
1. Bring all reagents and specimens to room temperature.
2. Place one drop (50 µl) of the positive control and 50 µl of the patient serum into separate circles on the glass slide.
3. Shake the CRP latex reagent gently and add one drop (45 µl) on each circle next to the sample to be tested and control.
4. Mix well using disposable stirrer spreading the mixture over the whole test area and tilt the slide gently. Agitate for about 2 minutes with rotator or by hand and observe for the presence or absence of agglutination.

**Semi-Quantitative Test**
1. Serum to be titrated is serially diluted (1:2, 1:4, 1:8 etc) in 0.9 g/L saline solution.
2. Place one drop of positive control on slide. Do not attempt to dilute the CRP positive control serum for comparative or other purposes as no correlation exists between actual titre of the control and titre of unknown sera.
3. Place 50 µl of each serum dilution individually in successive circles on the slide and proceed as in screening methodology.

Results and Interpretation
**Negative result:** No agglutination of the latex particles suspension within two minutes.
**Positive result:** An agglutination of the latex particles suspension will occur within two minutes, indicating a CRP level of more than 6 mg/L.

**Expected Value**
Up to 6 – 8 mg/L.

Limitations of the Procedure
Occasional agglutinations observed after 4 minutes have no diagnostic significance. Highly haemolyzed and lipemic serum as well as plasma interfere with the test.
References


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