



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

TEST: SYPHILIS SEROLOGY

ORDER CODES: 5035, 5040, 5065

TEST DESCRIPTION

Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR), qualitative: 5035

The SLO Public Health Laboratory performs a qualitative nontreponemal flocculation test for the detection of reagin antibodies in human serum and plasma as a screening test for syphilis. Reactive test samples will automatically reflex to quantitative RPR and treponemal confirmatory testing.

RPR, quantitative: 5040

The RPR titer aids in the interpretation of the syphilis test. Titers may be monitored to assess therapeutic response as well as re-infection.

Treponemal Passive Particle Agglutination Test (TP-PA): 5065

The TP-PA test is ordered automatically with a positive RPR qualitative test. It detects anti-treponemal antibodies and is used in combination with a non-treponemal test, such as the RPR, as a diagnostic tool.

Interpretation

To determine if an active syphilis infection is occurring, a patient's syphilis serology status requires consideration of the RPR, the RPR titer, and the TP-PA results. Below is a general guide to interpretation.

Condition	Signs & Symptoms	RPR	RPR titer	TPPA
Syphilis infection	Primary or secondary syphilis signs (chancre or rash)	Reactive	1:2 to \geq 1:256	Reactive
Syphilis infection	Tertiary syphilis (cardiovascular or neurologic symptoms)	Non-reactive or reactive	None or present	Reactive
Past, treated syphilis	No signs or symptoms	Reactive or non-reactive	1:1 or 1:2, occasionally higher	Reactive
Biologic false positive	Autoimmune disease, pregnancy, other condition	Reactive	1:1 or 1:2	Non-reactive

SPECIMENS ACCEPTED FOR TESTING

Serum or EDTA plasma samples removed from the red cells, and free of hemolysis, bacterial contamination, and lipemia. Specimens may be stored up to 5 days at refrigerated temperature (2–8 °C) before processing. If the RPR is reactive, a quantitative RPR titer and TP-PA will automatically be performed.

CPT Codes

- RPR: 86592
- RPR titer: 86593
- TPPA: 86780