



TONS

Tonsillitis Panel by rPCR - Qual

GA Test Code 8667

Method Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (rPCR) – Qualitative

PCR Targets

- ▶ Adenovirus
- ▶ Cytomegalovirus
- ▶ Epstein-Barr Virus
- ▶ HSV-1
- ▶ HSV-2

Specimens **Throat Swab (e.g. G Swab®)**: G Swab kits are provided by GA (note: discard the pipette). Collect the throat swab specimen by normal clinical methods. While keeping the tongue depressed, rub the swab on the tonsils, back of the throat, and any other inflamed area. Break-off the swab (pre-scored) in the tube and seal the tube for transport. The sample is stable for 30 days at room temperature (15-30°C).

Causes for Rejection Time/temperature instructions not followed; preservative emptied.

Reference Range Not Detected

Turnaround Time Within 48 hours

CPT Codes	Adenovirus	87798
	Cytomegalovirus	87496
	Epstein-Barr Virus	87798
	HSV-1	87529
	HSV-2	87529

Description

This assay uses a real-time polymerase chain reaction (rPCR) for the multiplex amplification and detection of the DNA of the target viruses, which are common viral causes of tonsillitis.

Clinical Utility

Tonsillitis typically refers to inflammation of the pharyngeal tonsils (glands at the back of the throat). The inflammation may involve other areas of the back of the throat, including the adenoids and the lingual tonsils (tonsil tissue at the back of the tongue). There are several variations: acute, recurrent, and chronic tonsillitis.

Viral infections cause most cases of tonsillitis, while 15-30% of tonsillitis cases are due to bacterial infections, of which the majority are *Streptococcus pyogenes* (group A strep). “Strep throat” is usually diagnosed in the health care provider’s office with a rapid strep test, followed by a throat culture which will identify strep within a few days. This Tonsillitis PCR panel detects and identifies the most common viral causes of tonsillitis. Antibiotics will be ineffective against a viral infection, and should not be prescribed.

www.entnet.org/tonsillitis

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