



CT

Chlamydia trachomatis by PCR - Qualitative

GA Test Code	3333 <i>Note:</i> GA recommends ordering Test Code #0180 <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> by PCR – Qualitative in conjunction with this assay, because patients infected with <i>C. trachomatis</i> may be co-infected with <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> .
Method	Abbott RealTime in vitro polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay - Qualitative
Specimens	ThinPrep: 2.0 mL (1.0 mL), store and ship ambient (up to 3 months). SurePath: 1.0 mL (0.5 mL), store and ship ambient (28 days). Genital Swab: place vaginal or male urethral swab in 1-2 mL of specimen transport medium, store and ship ambient or refrigerated (14 days). If longer storage is needed, store frozen (90 days). Abbott multi-Collect Specimen Collection Kits can be provided by GA. Urine: 10.0 mL (5.0 mL). Collect first-catch (not mid-stream) urine in sterile, leakproof container. The patient should not have urinated for 2 hours prior to collection. Immediately refrigerate urine and ship within 24 hours on cold pack. Others: Please contact GA with questions regarding other specimen types. <i>Note:</i> The presence of blood, mucus, some spermicidal agents, feminine powder sprays, and treatments for vaginal conditions such as yeast infection may interfere with nucleic acid test based assays.
Causes for Rejection	Quantity not sufficient (QNS) for analysis; time and/or temperature instructions not followed.
Reference Range	Not Detected
Turnaround Time	24-48 hours
CPT Code	87491

Description

The Abbott RealTime CT assay is an in vitro polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for the direct, qualitative detection of the plasmid DNA of *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The assay uses PCR technology with homogeneous real-time fluorescence detection.

Clinical Utility

Chlamydia trachomatis infections are among the most common sexually transmitted bacterial infections in the United States with approximately 4 million new cases occurring annually. Cell culture used to detect *C. trachomatis* has been replaced by more sensitive nucleic acid tests. Since a specific diagnosis of chlamydia may improve treatment compliance and enhance partner notification, the use of these highly sensitive and specific tests is strongly recommended. Performance characteristics of the Abbott RealTime CT assay were established in a multi-center clinical study. The overall sensitivity and specificity for CT was 95.0% and 99.2%, respectively.

MMWR. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines 2002. *Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* [serial online] 2002;51 (RR-06). Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/STD/treatment/4-2002TG.htm>.

Johnson RE, Newhall WJ, Papp JR, et al. Screening tests to detect *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections-2002. *MMWR Recomm Rep* 2002;51 (RR-15): 1-27.