



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Parasitology

Test Name: Malaria – Direct Giemsa Stain

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| Test Includes: Examination of Giemsa-stained thick and thin blood smears | |
| <i>Reporting</i> | |
| Results Available: 1 day | Contact Number: (650) 573-2500 |
| <i>Reference</i> | |
| Method: Direct microscopic examination of Giemsa-stained thick and thin blood smears. | |
| Turnaround Time: 1 day (stat procedure) | Reference Range: No parasites seen |
| Limitations: The ability to identify malaria parasites may be limited by anticoagulants such as EDTA if not examined within 1 hour after collection. Since malaria parasites may not be present in detectable numbers at all times, multiple specimens should be collected between fever spikes to rule out malaria infection. | Interpretation: Negative test results on multiple specimens indicate no detectable parasites in specimen. |
| <i>Specimen Requirements</i> | |
| Specimen Collection: Fingerstick or venipuncture. | Sample Type: Thick/thin blood smears; blood in purple top tube. |
| Volume/Amount Required: 7 ml of unclotted whole blood. | Preferred Specimen: Thick/thin blood smears; blood in purple top (EDTA) tube. |
| Collection/Preservation: Collect blood by finger stick and prepare at least two sets of thick and thin blood smears. If blood is collected by venipuncture in EDTA tube, make two sets of thick/thin blood smears within <u>one hour</u> of collection. | Storage Instructions: ambient temperature. Do not refrigerate blood. |
| Causes for Rejection: Incorrect blood collection tube used. Specimen too old. | Sample Container: Microscope slides for thick/thin blood smears or EDTA blood tube. |
| Sample Test Kit: | Availability: Test performed Monday-Friday and weekends. |
| Diagnostic Information: Anticoagulants such as EDTA in venous blood specimens can interfere with parasite morphology and staining characteristics. This effect can be further compounded by excessive delay prior to making smears. If venous blood is used, at least 2 thick and thin blood smears should be made within 1 hour of collection. | |
| <i>Specimen Submission</i> | |
| Request Form: Standard Clinical Test Request form or through computer interface | Specimen Handling: Body fluids handled using universal precautions. |



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| Transport Temperature: ambient temperature | Shipping Requirements: Triple-contained and packaged to meet requirements of DOT, USPS, PHS and IATA for shipping of clinical specimens. |
| <i>Billing</i> | |
| CPT Code(s): 87207 | Fees: \$15.00 |
| Effective Date: July 1, 2008 | |