

TEST: RPR (RAPID PLASMA REAGIN) SYPHILIS

PRINCIPLE:

RPR Card Test is a non-treponemal test for the serologic detection of syphilis and is recommended when venous blood collection is employed. In this method, carbon-particle cardiolipin antigen detects "reagin" a substance present in serum from syphilitic persons, and occasionally in serums of persons with other acute or chronic conditions. Specimens that contain reagin cause flocculation with a coagulation of the carbon particles of the RPR Card antigen, which appear as black clumps against a white background. The coagulation can be read macroscopically. In contrast, non-reactive specimens appear to have uniform light-gray color.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:

2ml serum collected in a red top tube without anticoagulant. Separate blood as soon as possible to prevent hemolysis. Store sera at 2-8°C and use within 48 hours. Freeze at -80°C if not tested within 48 hours.

Plasma: Collect blood in tubes containing EDTA as anticoagulant. Keep plasma in original collection tube and centrifuge prior to use. If not used immediately, store at 2-8°C and use within 48 hours of collection.

METHOD: Agglutination Test

REFERENCES:

1. Manual of test for syphilis, 1969, PHS Publication No. 411.
2. Bender, et al. Clinical Laboratory Procedure Manual, NCCLS. Code GP2-A, Vol. 4, NO. 2.

Normal Range: Non-reactive

Turnaround Time: One Week