

Newton-Wellesley Hospital's LAB REPORT

Spring/Summer 2007

The Newton-Wellesley Hospital Laboratory is proud to introduce our first Laboratory Services newsletter. This report is to provide, and enhance, communication between our Lab and our customers. Our goal is to provide educational information and updates regarding our laboratory services.

In-House Human Papillomavirus Testing

The Laboratory recently announced that we are performing human papillomavirus HPV DNA testing in house. Test results may now be found in PCI under the category of Molecular Testing.

This Hybrid Capture 2 (hc2) HPV DNA test is a nucleic acid hybridization assay that provides a qualitative molecular detection of 13 different human papillomavirus high-risk types: 16,18,31,33,35,39,45,51,52,56,58,59 and 68.

HPV infection can persist for years without symptoms and is common in adults who have had more than one sexual partner. Infection by high-risk types is an important risk factor for cervical cancer and high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (SIL), although the majority of women with HPV infections do not develop these conditions.

The Lab accepts specimens that include cervical swabs and cervical biopsies. These specimens may be collected in Digene HPV Specimen Collection Kit available by calling Customer Service at 617-243-6300. Send the specimen refrigerated. Thin-Prep (PreservCyt solution) vials are also acceptable following collection with a broom-type collection device. The HPV DNA test may be ordered as a reflex test with Thin-

Prep cytology specimens, to be performed if atypical squamous cells are detected by cytology. Send the specimen promptly refrigerated or at room temperature. False negative results may occur if high concentrations of anti-fungal cream, contraceptive jelly or douche are present.

The HPV DNA test is indicated to screen patients with atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US). Pap smear results are needed to determine whether a patient needs to be referred for colposcopy. Results of the HPV DNA test are not intended to prevent women from proceeding to colposcopy. This test is indicated to screen women 30 years and older to assess for the presence or absence of high-risk HPV types. This information, together with the physician's assessment of cytology history, other risk factors and professional guidelines, may be used to guide patient management.

This HPV DNA test is not intended for use as a screening device for Pap normal women under the age of 30 and is not intended to substitute for regular Pap screening. This test does not differentiate HPV types or infection with more than one type, and cannot evaluate persistence of any one type.

If you have questions or comments regarding the HPV test, please contact Susan Manning at 617-243-6096 or Michael J. Ross, MD, at 617-243-6138.



NEWTON-WELLESLEY
HOSPITAL



The Joint Commission's 2007 National Patient Safety Goals

To ensure patient safety, our phlebotomists are required to use two pieces of information to positively identify a patient prior to drawing their blood. Identifiers may include verifying name and date of birth. Outpatients and most nursing home patients do not wear wristbands containing identifying information. Nursing home patients may not be able to positively confirm their name and date of birth. When this happens a phlebotomist will ask one of the nursing home staff familiar with the resident to verify this information.

Laboratory Improvements

In our continuing effort to stay on the cutting edge of technology, enhance service and optimize patient care, we have added the following:

The Customer Service Department has added an Automatic Call Distribution System. This technology allows us to track the number of calls to the Lab and the type of calls received. This information will allow us to better meet your needs and improves customer service.

The Siemens Workcell, in the Chemistry Department, consists of four analyzers connected by an automated track system. This system currently processes more than 7,000 chemistry tests daily and performs more than 75 different tests. The most recently added tests are the Hepatitis testing and HIV testing. The Workcell helps reduce turnaround times while continuing to improve quality.

The Hematology Department acquired an Aution Max AX-4280. This automated urine analyzer is used to process more than 200 urine samples daily. This analyzer allows quicker processing of samples because the dipsticks are dispensed and read automatically. These features increase the efficiency and reduction of manual steps.

The Cytology Department uses the ThinPrep Imaging System for screening Pap smears. This dual screening combines advanced screening technology with human interpretive expertise. The ThinPrep Imaging system scans every cell and cluster on the patient slide and identifies "areas of interest" for cytotechnologist review. The Thin Prep Imaging System results turnaround time is three to five days.

Service Excellence

The Newton-Wellesley Hospital Laboratory Team is committed to providing outstanding service to our patients, physicians and Lab clients. We welcome your comments on the quality of our service, the experience you've had with us or any other information you would like to share. Your opinions on what we are doing well and those areas you feel we need improvement will enable us to continue to provide superior services to the community. Please feel free to call Suzanne Pennell at 617-243-6620 with your comments and suggestions.

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