

THE NANOGRAM

Martha Jefferson Hospital Laboratory Services

Winter 2008

Quarterly Newsletter on MJH website

This newsletter is from the Laboratory and will be distributed on a quarterly basis. It contains important information and news briefs concerning laboratory services. In addition to normal distribution, each issue will be posted at www.marthajefferson.org/healthcare/laboratory. Go to www.marthajefferson.org on the Healthcare Professionals menu and select Laboratory Medicine.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Cultures

Please take a minute to review this information as a reminder of how the laboratory handles bacterial cultures as it may relate to your investigation of MRSA. As a result of the recent publicity and increasing interest with this organism, the laboratory has observed some change in ordering patterns.

- We want to take this opportunity to inform you that all Staphylococcus aureus organisms are detected and isolated in routine culture specimens are specifically tested for methicillin resistance. Sensitivities are performed on all routine cultures.
- In the setting of a patient who has a history of MRSA, order a MRSA culture. Sensitivities will not be performed in this setting.

It is not necessary to order both a routine culture and a MRSA culture if either one of the scenarios described above is being considered. For any questions or comments, please feel

MJH and UVA Unite To Train Dermpath Fellows

In an effort to expand the dermatopathology fellowship program at University of Virginia and to allow for an addition of a military trainee, Martha Jefferson Hospital moved forward with an affiliation agreement with UVA in the fall of 2007. With this agreement, fellows training in Dermatopathology rotate at MJH one week per month. This program is headed at MJH by our board certified dermatopathologist, Dr. David Rowe. This affiliation allows fellows to train at both institutions and to review an increased number of dermatology cases.

New Website for Charlottesville Pathology Associates

Visit the CPA website at the web address www.cvillepathology.net. This site contains contact numbers and emails, downloadable request forms and general forms, practice and pathologist descriptions, and educational material to share with your patients and staffs. Feel free to give this website address to your patients if they have questions about anatomic pathology and how it pertains to their overall health care.

Microbiology Transport Medium Change

Effective December 1 of 2007, Quest Diagnostics (our reference lab) has replaced its M4 viral transport medium with VCM (viral-chlamydia-mycoplasma) transport medium. The tube now has a green cap and each kit is labeled according to patient source (ie...cervical, urethral, nasopharyngeal, and skin surface specimens). The medium is the same in each tube, just a different size swab. Please check the bag for the correct specimen kit.

Preoperative Blood Work

Please note that patients preparing for upcoming surgeries can be sent to the drawing center to be drawn for Blood Bank up to 10 days out unless they are 1) pregnant or 2) have received blood or any blood product in the past 3 months. Doctors should ask their patients if they have received any blood products in the past 3 months and if so tell their patients to come 1 to 2 days from their surgery for pre-op blood work. This will save the patient an unnecessary trip to the hospital.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea (CT/NG) Testing In-house

Along with performing Pap test screening/diagnosis and running the Digene HPV assay on SurePath Pap specimens, the Martha Jefferson Hospital Cytology laboratory is pleased to announce we are now performing the Digene CTNG assay on SurePath Pap specimens in-house.

The assay is a combined assay and any positive results have to be "referenced" by MJH Cytology to Quest for confirmation/ID. For this reason, offices are encouraged to be cautious when receiving printed results (particularly those from CareEvolve) and to clarify if the results are truly final or just a preliminary indicating the specimen was referenced to Quest.

Chemistry Offering Lead Testing

Martha Jefferson Clinical Lab is now offering Lead testing. The specimen requirements are EDTA whole blood. If you have any questions, please call 982-7176.

Rh Immune Globulin Shots

Laboratory Services will be issuing a new form for administration of the Rh Immune Globulin Shots. When you receive the new form, please disregard the old one.

Please remember the shot will only be given to patients **>28 weeks** gestation for Antenatal Rh Immune Globulin Prophylaxis. Physicians should notify their patients of the date range in which to get the shot. Clearly notifying the patients of the proper date will eliminate the inconvenience of a patient being denied and having to return. For questions, contact the lab at 434-982-7189.

Important Telephone Numbers

- Need lab results from the Clinical Lab call 982-7170 or fax 982-7164.
- Outreach Department, call 982-7183
- Need lab results from the Anatomic Pathology Lab 982-7955 or fax 982-7944.
- AP Client Services Representative, Noel Jorgensen, at 244-5525

The next Nanogram newsletter will be Spring 2008 distributed on April 10, 2008.

**Have a happy, healthy, and
safe 2008!**