

THE PATHCARE NEWS

Solutions for diagnosing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are commonly underdiagnosed. Molecular methods have improved detection rates, especially among asymptomatic individuals, and has subsequently replaced conventional culture and serology. Despite the availability of syndromic management approach, many patients will present with non-specific symptoms that could lead to incorrect management or missed cases among asymptomatic individuals. STI co-infections are also common and STIs are known to increase the infectiousness of HIV. Screening remains important in high-risk individuals and contacts. Targeted therapy is preferred especially considering recent changes in management guidelines due to the emergence of resistance among these pathogens.

PathCare offers solutions for screening as well as symptom-based testing. Please contact the local clinical microbiologist for advice on which solution to use.

Sexual Health Screen

This panel is ideally used for screening of individuals at risk for developing a STI and asymptomatic patients including contacts of known cases. Serology and molecular tests are used together to cover a large spectrum of bacteria, viruses and parasites including or excluding HIV testing on request.

Sexual Health Screen (Including/excluding HIV)
Serology
HIV 1 & 2 antibodies +p24
Hepatitis B Virus surface antigen
Hepatitis C Virus antibodies
<i>Treponema pallidum</i> antibodies
STI Screen (PCR)
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>

Request: Sexual Health Screen
(F5872 - HIV included) (Y5871 - HIV excluded)
Sample type: Serum plus Urine

Urogenital PCR Panel

This panel is used to test patients that presents with signs and symptoms of a possible STI or clinical findings suggestive of infection except for the presence of genital ulceration (separate panel advised). Two options are available, a full panel with 7 targets (longer turnaround time) and an abridged panel with 4 targets (shorter turnaround time).

Urogenital PCR Panel	STI Screen (PCR)
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>	<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i>
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>
<i>Mycoplasma hominis</i>	
<i>Ureaplasma urealyticum</i>	
<i>Ureaplasma parvum</i>	

Request: Urogenital PCR Panel (Q5306) / STI Screen (L2089)
Sample type: Urine, urethral/cervical swabs, liquid based cytology (LBC) Specimen

Genital Ulceration PCR Panel

This panel is used specifically to test when genital ulcer disease is suspected with sampling from a visible lesion preferred.

Genital Ulceration Panel
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>
Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV1)
Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV2)
Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)

Request: Genital Ulceration PCR Panel (P1181)
Sample type: Dry swab taken from genital lesion

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