



CMV Real-time PCR at Medical Research Institute

Can be download at <http://www.mri.gov.lk/en/departments/virology/cmvmv/>

Clinician or his/her M.O. should discuss with the Consultant Virologist at MRI over the phone prior to sending sample.

This viral load is a very expensive assay (cost around Rs.12000/=) and limited reagents are available. Therefore, it should be only requested, when there is a real indication to perform the assay.

Prerequisite for CMV rtPCR Assay

- It would be better if clinicians can make a referral to the Consultant Virologist.
- Test should be always authorized by a Consultant Physician or Consultant Microbiologist.
- **Possible bacterial causes should have been always excluded** before proceeding towards this expensive CMV PCR assay.

Indications for CMV rtPCR Assay

1. Clinically suspecting CMV disease in an immunocompromised patient:
Unexplained fever for more than 3 days with leucopenia, thrombocytopenia or evidence of organ involvement. Eg:- elevated serum alanine aminotransferase
2. Acutely ill neonates with suspected congenital CMV infection.
3. To monitor the response to antiviral treatment in CMV disease

Samples

1. About 2 ml of blood in a commercial (sterile) disposable EDTA container (**autoclaved reusable containers are not suitable**)
2. If need to send other types samples please contact Dept of Virology (011) 2 693532-4 Ext 463 or 444
3. Sample should be sent to MRI with ice packs (to maintain 4⁰C) immediately after the collection.
4. If there is any delay store them at 4⁰C and try to send it to MRI at least within 72 hours of collection.
5. Request form should be duly filled including the following clinical information of the patient.
 - Underlying reason for immunosuppression
 - Post-transplant period where applicable
 - CD₄ count in AIDS patients
 - Duration of fever
 - Evidence of organ involvement
 - Investigations;
FBC/CRP/UFR/S.Creatinine/Liver enzymes/CSF reports
 - Bacterial culture results/Chest X-ray findings
6. Container should be properly labeled and transported in ice.

Rejection criteria:

Heparinized specimen;
quantity not sufficient for analysis;
specimen grossly contaminated;
specimen too old (> 5 days);
frozen whole blood specimen;
specimen leaky or tube broken.