



Laboratory Communiqué

Volume 6 , Number 1
January 2012

The *Laboratory Communiqué* is a quarterly publication released by Billings Clinic Laboratory Services as an informational tool for medical staff and laboratorians.

In This Issue

New Tests

Quest OVA-1™

ALK Gene Rearrangement

EGFR Mutation Analysis

Test Updates

DRVVT Reference Range Changes

Meeting News

NMLPW April 22-28

ASCLS-MT Spring Conference April 11-14

NEW TESTS

OVA-1™

OVA-1™ Test is an aid to help a physician evaluate the likelihood that a woman's ovarian mass is malignant or benign prior to a planned surgery. The test is a qualitative serum test that combines the results of five immunoassays into a single numerical result. The test is not intended as a screening or stand-alone diagnostic assay.

This reference test to Quest can now be ordered with the Billings Clinic test code #5310

Specimen Requirement: 2.2 mL refrigerated serum
1.1 mL minimum

Molecular Testing in Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men and women in the United States. Non small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC) accounts for 85-90% of lung cancers. Amongst NSCLC the most common type is adenocarcinoma. New developments in targeted therapies for NSCLC include tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) that target the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), and inhibitors of Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase (ALK).

Importantly, response to therapies that target ALK and EGFR is associated with the presence of mutations in EGFR, and activating translocations involving the ALK gene. Activating alterations involving ALK and EGFR are present in 2-7%, and 20% of NSCLC respectively.

Companion diagnostic tests for EGFR mutations and ALK mutations are now FDA approved. The Billings Clinic pathology department recognizes the significant benefit of these targeted therapies to appropriate NSCLC patients. Our laboratory now reflexes newly diagnosed lung adenocarcinomas for ALK translocation, and EGFR mutation testing, by Fluorescent in situ Hybridization (FISH), and polymerase chain reaction (PCR), respectively, at Genzyme Genetics.

Specimen requirements are formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue blocks containing at least fifty tumor cells, and a ratio of tumor cells to non tumor cells of greater than 25%.



Laboratory Services

Contact Us

(406) 657-4060
(866) 232-2522

Director/Pathologist:
Jeffrey Smith, MD

Lab Director:
Mark Lubbers, MT ASCP

Technical Consultant:
Joni Gilstrap, MT ASCP
Extension 4046

**Client Services
Supervisor/Technical
Liaison**
Rebecca Schulz
Extension 4861

**Laboratory Marketing
Coordinator**
Jena DeVries
Extension 4888

ALK Gene Rearrangement

This reference test to Genzyme Genetics can now be ordered with the Billings Clinic test code #5911.

EGFR Mutation Analysis

This reference test to Genzyme Genetics can now be ordered with Billings Clinic test code #5910.

TEST UPDATES

DRVVT Screen/Confirm

The Reference Ranges have been changed:

DRVVT Screen	Old Range	26.9-42.6 secs
	New Range	25.3-45.5 secs
DRVVT Confirm	Old Range	26.4-36.2 secs
	New Range	28.2-37.7 secs
DRVVT Ratio:	Old	<1.14
	New	<1.28

MEETINGS

National Medical Laboratory Week is April 22-28, 2012. This is an annual celebration of the medical laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care.

The ASCLS-MT Spring Conference is scheduled for April 11-14, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. Montana is also one of five states in the ASCLS Region VIII which includes Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming societies.

For more information about Billings Clinic Laboratory please call (406) 657-4060 or 1-866-232-2522. www.billingsclinic.com.

7010



2800 Tenth Avenue North
P.O. Box 37000
Billings, Montana 59107-7000

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Billings, Montana
Permit No. 1018