Level 0: [TLP-WHITE]

NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY OF IMMUNOLOGY

Instructions for the collection, packaging and transport of test samples

1. Venous blood **for *immunophenotyping by flow cytometry*** should be collected in the morning, on an empty stomach (before breakfast), using one of the following anticoagulants: ***Na-K EDTA, Na citrate, Na or Li heparin***. If necessary, it should be stored ***at room temperature (18–22 °C)***. The test must be carried out ***within 24 hours of sample collection***.

2. Venous blood for ***functional tests*** (lymphocyte activation, T-cell functional activity, basophil degranulation, phagocytosis) is collected in the morning, on an empty stomach (before breakfast), with the anticoagulant **Na or Li heparin,** for or basophil degranulation test **K-EDTA**, and transported at **room temperature (18–22 °C).** The test must be carried out within **6 hours of sample collection**.

3. Venous blood for the ***Quantiferon test for the diagnosis of tuberculosis infection*** is collected in a tube containing **Na or Li heparin as an anticoagulan**t and transported at **room temperature (18–22 °C)**. Minimum blood volume required: **4 ml**. The test must be carried out within ***6 hours of sample collection***. Samples are accepted from Monday to Thursday inclusive, from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm, regardless of meal intake.

4***. Quantitative determination of immunoglobulins (IgG, IgM, IgA)*** is carried out in serum or plasma. The sample is taken in the **morning, on an empty stomach** (before breakfast). Separated serum may be stored at 4°C for up to 10 days. Minimum required volume of venous blood: **0.5 ml**. Minimum required volume of separated serum: **50 µl**.

5. Determination of the ***autoimmune profile (IgG antibodies against a panel of autoantigens)*** is carried out in serum or plasma. Separated serum may be stored at 4^0C for up to 10 days. Minimum required volume of venous blood: **0.5 ml.** Minimum required volume of separated serum: **50 µl**.

6. The ***determination of allergen-specific IgE antibodies against individual allergens or a panel of allergens*** is carried out in serum or plasma. Separated serum may be stored at 4°C for up to 10 days. Minimum required volume of venous blood: **2.0 ml.** Minimum required volume of separated serum: **500 µl.**

The NRLI accepts for analysis **only properly packaged materials**, accompanied by a **Request for Immunological or Allergological Examination** containing the following **minimum mandatory information:** patient's name and age, date of sample collection, date of sample dispatch, referring healthcare facility, referring physician, name of the physician submitting the sample, type of sample, diagnosis, and type of examination requested.

Transportation must be carried out in a manner that ensures the material arrives in good condition (i.e., with no visible signs of leakage, or crushed or torn packaging). The material must be transported in a securely closed, unbreakable (plastic) container or a sealed plastic bag, containing an absorbent material (such as cotton wool or lignin). During transit, the shipment must not pose a risk to humans, animals, or the environment. The samples must not be subjected to mechanical stress during transport and must be kept in an upright position.

Level 0: [TLP-WHITE]

For materials suspected of being related to highly dangerous infectious diseases (HDIDs) or bioterrorism, follow the link:

https://www.ncipd.org/index.php/bg/structure/microbiology/nrl-oobi#izprasane-na-materiali-za-oobi