



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NEW TEST TEST CHANGE

NOTIFICATION DATE: April 19, 2019

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 25, 2019

Change in Testing for Blood Parasites

Babesia microti PCR

Blood Parasites, travel - associated Parasitemia

Northwell Health Laboratories announces new testing methodologies for the detection of *Babesia microti*, malaria, and other blood parasites. The previous test “Blood Parasites”, which provided broad-spectrum detection of all blood-related parasites, will be replaced by three separate test orders in order to shorten turnaround time and increase sensitivity/specificity for certain targets:

The new test order “*Babesia microti* PCR” is the recommended test for all suspected cases of babesiosis. This test was developed by Northwell Health Laboratories and approved by NYS – Department of Health. This assay provides **significantly faster turnaround time** and **more accurate results** than traditional blood smears.

IMPORTANT: “*Babesia microti* PCR” does **NOT** provide information about the parasitic burden. **If quantification is required, “Parasitemia”** should be ordered with “*Babesia microti* PCR”, or on known *Babesia* positive patients.

The test order “**Blood parasites, travel associated**” includes detection and identification of pathogens that can typically only be acquired through travel to endemic areas, such as *Plasmodium* spp. (malaria), microfilaria, trypanosoma, and other blood parasites. Parasitemia will automatically be performed on *Plasmodium* spp. positive samples. The test order “Parasitemia” is NOT needed.

DO NOT ORDER “Blood parasites, travel - associated” IF THERE IS NO PERTINENT TRAVEL HISTORY

Test name	Specimen Requirements	Test Code	PDM	CPT	TAT
<i>Babesia microti</i> PCR	Lavender tube	P Bab PCR	1762069	87798	24h
Blood Parasites, travel - associated	Lavender tube	P Bld	6201281	87207	24h
Parasitemia*	Lavender tube	P parasitemia	1762068	87207	24h

***For quantification of *Babesia microti* only**

Specimen requirements: For both orderable tests, a dedicated whole blood specimen is required (lavender tube).

Availability: Mon – Sun.

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (516) 719-1100.