MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: MERKC

Merkel CC (MCPyV) Immunostain, Technical Component Only

Overview

Useful For

Identification of Merkel cell polyomavirus infected cells

Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
IHTOI	IHC Initial, Tech Only	No	No
IHTOA	IHC Additional, Tech Only	No	No

Testing Algorithm

For the initial technical component only immunohistochemical (IHC) stain performed, the appropriate bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOI). For each additional technical component only IHC stain performed, an additional bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOA).

Method Name

Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

TECHONLY

Ordering Guidance

This test includes only technical performance of the stain; **no pathologist interpretation is provided**.

Technical component only stains **should not** be ordered with PATHC / Pathology Consultation. If ordered with PATHC, the technical component stains **will be canceled**. Any immunohistochemistry (IHC)/in situ hybridization (ISH) stain performed as a part of the PATHC will be performed at the reviewing pathologist's discretion at an additional charge.

Shipping Instructions

Attach the green "Attention Pathology" address label (T498) and the pink Immunostain Technical Only label included in the kit to the outside of the transport container.

Specimen Required

Specimen Type: Tissue

Supplies: Immunostain Technical Only Envelope (T693)
Container/Tube: Immunostain Technical Only Envelope
Submit:
-Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block
OR
-2 Unstained, positively charged glass slides (25- x 75- x 1-mm) per test ordered; sections 4-microns thick
Additional Information: Broken or cracked unstained slides will be rejected. Stained slides that were broken and repaired (ie, double mounted) at the client site will not be rejected, as, in most cases, they can still be reviewed under the microscope. However, due to the double mounting, digital scanning cannot be performed.

Digital Image Access

1. Information on accessing digital images of immunohistochemical (IHC) stains and the manual requisition form can be accessed through this website: https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/pathology/digital-imaging/
2. Clients ordering stains using a manual requisition form will not have access to digital images.
3. Clients wishing to access digital images must place the order for IHC stains electronically. Information regarding digital imaging can be accessed through this website: https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/pathology/digital-imaging/#section3

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Immunohistochemical (IHC)/In Situ Hybridization (ISH) Stains Request (T763) with the specimen.

Reject Due To

Wet/frozen tissue	Reject
Cytology smears	Reject
Non-formalin fixed tissue	Reject
Nonparaffin embedded tissue	Reject
Noncharged, ProbeOn or Snowcoat slides	Reject
Broken or cracked unstained slides	Reject
Broken or cracked stained slides that cannot be	Reject

repaired	

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
TECHONLY	Ambient (preferred)		
	Refrigerated		

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPyV) infections are common and typically benign. In rare instances, these infections lead to neoplastic transformations known as Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) through the expression (nuclear) of MCPyV large T-antigen. MCPyV-positive MCC have been reported to behave less aggressively than MCPyV-negative MCC.

Interpretation

This test does not include pathologist interpretation, only technical performance of the stain. If interpretation is required, order PATHC / Pathology Consultation for a full diagnostic evaluation or second opinion of the case.

The positive and negative controls are verified as showing appropriate immunoreactivity.

Interpretation of this test should be performed in the context of the patient's clinical history and other diagnostic tests by a qualified pathologist.

Cautions

Age of a cut paraffin section can affect immunoreactivity. Stability thresholds vary widely among published literature and are antigen dependent. Best practice is for paraffin sections to be cut within 6 weeks.

The charge of glass slides can be affected by environmental factors and subsequently may alter slide staining. Sending unsuitable glass slides can result in inconsistent staining due to poor slide surface chemistry.

Best practices for storage of positively charged slides:
-Minimize time slides are stored after being unpackaged
-Limit exposure to high humidity and heat
-Minimize exposure to plastics

Broken or cracked unstained slides are not compatible with the instrumentation used in our performing laboratories and will be rejected. Additional material may be requested.

Attempts will be made to repair broken or cracked stained slides; however, if they are unable to be repaired (ie, shattered in transit), they will be rejected and discarded due to safety concerns.

Clinical Reference

1. Leroux-Kozal V, Leveque N, Brodard V, et al. Merkel cell carcinoma: histopathologic and prognostic features according to the immunohistochemical expression of Merkel cell polyomavirus large T antigen correlated with viral load. Hum Pathol. 2015;46(3):443-453
2. Samimi M, Molet L, Fleury M, et al. Prognostic value of antibodies to Merkel cell polyomavirus T antigens and VP1 protein in patients with Merkel cell carcinoma. Br J Dermatol. 2016;174(4):813-822
3. Richards KF, Guastafierro A, Shuda M, Toptan T, Moore PS, Change Y. Merkel cell polyomavirus T antigens promote cell proliferation and inflammatory cytokine gene expression. J Gen Virol. 2015;96(12):3532-3544
4. Jung HS, Choi YL, Choi JS, et al. Detection of Merkel cell polyomavirus in Merkel cell carcinomas and small cell carcinomas by PCR and immunohistochemistry. Histol Histopathol. 2011;26(10):1231-1241
5. Magaki S, Hojat SA, Wei B, So A, Yong WH. An introduction to the performance of immunohistochemistry. Methods Mol Biol. 2019;1897:289-298. doi:10.1007/978-1-4939-8935-5_25

Performance

Method Description
Immunohistochemistry on sections of paraffin-embedded tissue.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report
No

Day(s) Performed
Monday through Friday

Report Available
1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time
Until staining is complete.

Performing Laboratory Location
Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

Fees & Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per

manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

CPT Code Information

88342-TC, primary
88341-TC, if additional IHC

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
MERKC	Merkel CC (MCPyV) IHC, Tech Only	Order only;no result

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
71542	Merkel CC (MCPyV) IHC, Tech Only	Bill only; no result