



Reporting Title: Malaria PCR with Parasitemia Reflex

Performing Location: Rochester

Ordering Guidance:

1. When monitoring percent parasitemia for patient response to therapy, order MAL / Rapid Malaria/Babesia Smear, Varies (conventional blood film exam) instead of this test.
2. This test is not performed on a STAT basis and, therefore, should not be used as a primary screening test for malaria.
3. This test is used primarily to confirm a presumptive malaria diagnosis and to determine infecting Plasmodium species, particularly when the parasite morphology on traditional blood films is suboptimal.
4. Clients in the Rochester, MN area who are seeking a primary test for malaria and who can deliver the specimen within 4 hours of collection should order MAL / Rapid Malaria/Babesia Smear, Varies.
5. Laboratories that are unable to deliver a specimen within 4 hours of collection should perform an initial screen for malaria and other blood parasites in their laboratory prior to sending a specimen to Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

Shipping Instructions:

Label all slides and place dry slides in a labeled slide box. Rubber band labeled slide box and labeled EDTA tube together and send to lab refrigerate.

Specimen Requirements:

Both blood specimens and slides are required.

Specimen Type: Blood

Container/Tube: Lavender top (EDTA)

Specimen Volume: 3 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Invert several times to mix blood.
2. Send whole blood specimen in original tube. Do not aliquot.

Specimen Type: Blood films

Container/Tube: Clean, grease-free slides in plastic slide container

Specimen Volume: 2 Thin blood films and 2 thick blood films

Collection Instructions:

1. Blood films should be made from fresh blood using fingerstick or drops of blood from needle following venipuncture. However, EDTA anticoagulated blood is also acceptable.
2. Prepare thin blood films as follows:
 - a. Prepare a thin film with a "feathered edge" that is no more than a single cell thick.
 - b. Allow the film to thoroughly air dry and then fix by briefly immersing in either absolute or 95% methyl alcohol.
 - c. Allow to air dry after fixation.
3. Prepare thick blood films as follows:
 - a. Place a large drop of blood (approximately the size of a dime and preferably from a fingerstick) on a slide.
 - b. Using a corner of a second slide, spread the drop in a circular motion while applying firm pressure to literally scratch the blood onto the carrier slide. This technique allows the blood to dry quickly and adhere well to the slide. Use approximately 20 circular sweeps with the second slide. The drop of blood should be about the size of a quarter when finished.
 - c. Do not fix. Air dry thoroughly (approximately 45 minutes) before placing in transport container.

Specimen Minimum Volume:

Blood: 1 mL

Slides: See Specimen Required

Forms:

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Microbiology Test Request (T244) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days	
	Ambient	7 days	

Result Codes:

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
37116	Malaria PCR w/ Parasitemia	Alphanumeric		47260-5

LOINC and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

Supplemental Report:

No

CPT Code Information:

87798

87207 (if applicable)

Reflex Tests:

Test ID	Reporting Name	CPT Units	CPT Code	Always Performed	Orderable Separately
MALCT	Plasmodium Percent Parasitemia Rflx			No	No



Result Codes for Reflex Tests:

Test ID	Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
MALCT	MALCT	Plasmodium Percent Parasitemia Rflx	Alphanumeric		53556-7

Reference Values:

Negative