



CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA

Each year, nearly four million cases of chlamydia and one million cases of gonorrhea are reported in the United States. Coinfection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) is not uncommon. It is important to test all sexually active individuals for both CT and GC, because up to half of patients diagnosed may be infected with both pathogens. The complications that can result from untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea can be serious.

Culture has been considered the gold standard for detection of both CT and GC. However, CT culture lacks sensitivity and GC culture is highly dependent on proper specimen handling, storage and transport. Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) DNA probe assays have demonstrated higher sensitivity than culture.

Detecting CT and GC using the Aptima Combo 2® Assay.

ChildLab offers the **Aptima Combo 2® Assay** which is a target nucleic acid amplification test that utilizes target capture and transcription mediated amplification for qualitative detection and differentiation of ribosomal RNA from CT and GC in endocervical, vaginal, and male urethral swab specimens as well as female and male urine specimens.

Why order the Aptima Combo 2® Assay?

- ♥ A major advantage of this assay is the ability to detect *GC* and *CT* in urine and thus avoid more invasive and potentially “unpleasant” swab collection methods.
- ♥ The sensitivity of Aptima Combo 2® Assay has been shown to be superior to culture and direct specimen tests.
- ♥ The specificity of Aptima Combo 2® Assay is excellent and the assay does not cross-react with commensal organisms found in genitalia.
- ♥ The Aptima Combo 2® Assay provides two results from one sample collection.
- ♥ All positive results will be reported by phone to the ordering physician.

Limitations

The major limitation of NAATs when compared to culture for CT or GC is that they are **not** FDA-approved for testing non-genitourinary sites including throat, NP, conjunctival, or rectal swab specimens - all of which may be sources of *GC* or *CT* in select clinical cases. In these cases, culture must be ordered. In addition, there is limited data on the use of NAATs on young children and particularly in cases of sexual abuse. In these cases, specimens for culture should always be submitted in addition to specimens for NAAT.

How can ChildLab help you?

ChildLab offers the Aptima Combo 2® Assay testing weekdays with results reported in 3-5 days. For your convenience, **ChildLab** can provide APTIMA Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kits for urethral or endocervical specimen collections as well as clean sterile containers for urine specimen collections.

For more information or questions regarding test availability, collection kits and sample requirements, please contact **ChildLab Client Services at (614)722-5477 or (800)934-6575.**