



Enteroviruses

What are Enteroviruses

Enteroviruses are a large family of viruses responsible for many infections in children. These viruses live in the intestinal tract, but can cause a wide variety of illnesses. There are more than 70 different strains, which include the group A and group B coxsackie viruses, the echoviruses, the polioviruses, and several strains that are commonly called “enterovirus”. Even though there are many strains, most enterovirus illnesses are caused by about a dozen specific strains.

The clinical presentation of enteroviruses often mimic other bacterial and viral diseases. Infants and children are often unnecessarily hospitalized and prescribed prolonged antibiotics and antiviral medications. It is important for rapid and accurate identification of the causative agent so that effective patient treatment can be expedited.

What testing is available for Enteroviruses at ChildLab?

Establishing an association between an enterovirus and a particular disease in a patient requires laboratory confirmation of infection by isolation of the virus or documentation of specific serologic response in a properly timed specimen. The 'gold standard' for typing enteroviruses is cell culture isolation. This method, however reliable, is expensive and time consuming. The average turn around time for identification and reporting is 6-7 days or longer.

As an alternative, **ChildLab** also offers a molecular method of screening for enteroviruses. This method, **Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)**, is a highly sensitive and powerful method for detection of target RNA sequences to enteroviruses. **RT-PCR** offers a rapid and more sensitive result for the support of enterovirus diagnosis and treatment.

How can ChildLab help you?

ChildLab offers enterovirus qualitative testing by RT-PCR 6 days a week with results reported in 1-2 days. For your convenience, **ChildLab** can provide your facility with collection devices.

For More Information:

For questions regarding test availability, collection devices, or specimen requirements, please contact ChildLab Client Services at (614)722-5477 or (800)934-6575.