Traditional Syphilis Screening

**SEROLOGIC ALGORITHM**

1. **Quantitative RPR**
   
   **(Titer)**
   
   **(non-treponemal test)**

2. **RPR+ (Reactive)**

3. **TP-PA**
   
   **(or other treponemal test)**

4. **TP-PA+ (Reactive)**

5. **TP-PA - (Non-Reactive)**

6. **RPR - (Non-Reactive)**

   **(no lab evidence of syphilis infection)**

   **Syphilis Unlikely**

   **(Possible Reasons: Biological False + (BFP))**

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1. CDC Recommended Algorithm. Algorithms used by laboratories may vary. Check with your laboratory provider.

2. When ordering an RPR=rapid plasma reagin (non-treponemal) and results are positive, order a REFLEX treponemal test such as TP-PA=Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay. Both types of tests must be used to confirm a diagnosis in patients without previous history of syphilis.

3. Other treponemal tests include EIA=enzyme immunoassay; CIA=chemiluminescence immunoassay.

4. Results alone cannot be used to make a diagnosis (New vs. Old infection; Treated vs. Untreated; Early vs. False Positive) so it is important to gather complete medical information and patient history and perform a physical exam to assist with treatment and additional evaluation considerations.

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All cases of syphilis must be reported within one working day to the Department of Public Health. (California Health and Safety Code 120675-120715)

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For syphilis history, staging or reporting:
County of San Diego Community Health Services Unit: 619-692-8501

For STD clinical management consultation:
County of San Diego STD Clinical Consultation Line: 619-609-3245

*Adapted from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health*
SEROLOGIC SCREENING ALGORITHM

1. CDC Recommended Algorithm. Algorithms used by laboratories may vary. Check with your laboratory provider.

2. When ordering EIA=enzyme immunoassay; CIA=chemiluminescence immunoassay; TP-PA=Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay (treponemal tests) or RPR=rapid plasma reagin (non-treponemal test) it is important to order a REFLEX test when results are positive. Both types of tests must be used to confirm a diagnosis in patients without previous history of syphilis.

3. Results alone cannot be used to make a diagnosis (New vs. Old infection; Treated vs. Untreated; Early vs. False Positive) so it is important to gather complete medical information and patient history and perform a physical exam to assist with treatment and additional evaluation considerations.

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