

Rapid Strep Test

DESCRIPTION

The test is a qualitative test that is used to detect the presence of Group A Streptococcus, the most common bacterial cause of pharyngitis (sore throat). While other causes exist for a sore throat, including other bacteria and other types of Streptococcus, they cannot and will not be identified by this test.

WHAT IS AN ANTIGEN TEST?

By using a specialized filter with antibodies that target a variety of antigens unique to the Streptococcus A bacteria, a small sample is filtered through this specialized antibody mixture. If antigen is present, the antibodies will bind to them and create a positive response which can then be read/identified.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you have been suffering from a sore throat, and have any of the following symptoms, you could have strep throat:

- A sudden and severe sore throat
- Pain or difficulty swallowing
- [Fever](#) of 101° or more
- Tender or swollen lymph nodes (glands at the front of the neck)

- Tiny, red spots on the roof of your mouth

WHAT TYPE OF SPECIMEN WILL BE COLLECTED FOR THIS TEST?

This test requires a simple swab of the back of the throat.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No, fasting is not required. There are no dietary or medicinal restrictions to take this test.

IS A DOCTOR'S ORDER REQUIRED?

Any Lab Test Now's ordering physician will provide the required physician's order on your behalf.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Results from a rapid strep test are usually available within 10-15 minutes.

IS THIS TEST APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)?

Yes, this test has been approved by the FDA for use under the CLIA Certificate of Waiver.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A POSITIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a positive result for this test, it means that the unique and identifying antigens (surface proteins) of Group A Streptococcus bacteria have been identified. This information, together with a clinical correlation of symptoms and history, can help your healthcare provider give a more appropriate treatment plan.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I HAVE A NEGATIVE TEST RESULT?

If you have a negative result, it means that no antigens for Group A Streptococcus were found or identified.

WHAT IF I WANT TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS WITH A PHYSICIAN?

You can share your results with your healthcare provider or contact our telemedicine partner, DialCare, and they will assist you in interpreting the results. Any Lab Test Now does not diagnose or interpret results.

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate for the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.