Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Panel

The STD panel is a group of tests used to screen for common sexually transmitted diseases including herpes, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and HIV. These tests screen for the antibodies the body produces in response to the infection.

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV-1 and HSV-2) Screen

Herpes simplex virus testing is performed to detect herpes antibodies, an indication of a current or previous exposure to herpes. Genital herpes is a sexually transmitted disease caused by two types of viruses. The viruses are called herpes simplex type 1 (HSV-1) and herpes simplex type 2 (HSV-2).

What is the difference between herpes simplex type 1 and herpes simplex type 2?
Both types are contagious and periodically cause small fever blisters (vesicles) that break to form open lesions. HSV-1 primarily causes blisters or “cold sores” around the mouth, while HSV-2 usually causes lesions around the genital area; however, either one can affect the oral or genital area.

Is herpes curable?
There is no cure for herpes, but antiviral medications can prevent or shorten outbreaks.

How does the test work?
The blood test looks for appearance of antibodies to HSV, which are specific proteins the body creates and releases into the bloodstream in response to the infection. HSV IgM antibody production begins several days after a primary (initial) HSV infection and may be detectable in the blood for several weeks. HSV IgG antibody production begins after HSV IgM production. Once someone has been infected with HSV, they will continue to produce small quantities of HSV IgG. HSV antibody testing can detect both HSV-1 and HSV-2 viral types.

What should I do if my results are positive or negative?
It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

If your results were positive: You should share your results with your healthcare provider to discuss treatment options and/or further testing. The presence of HSV-1 or HSV-2 IgM antibodies indicates an active or recent infection, while HSV-1 or HSV-2 IgG antibodies indicate a previous infection.

If your results were negative: A negative test result simply means the test did not detect the organism and doesn’t necessarily indicate a clean bill of health. If you have symptoms or concerns over potential exposure, you should speak with your healthcare provider.

Syphilis Screen

Syphilis is an infection caused by the bacteria Treponema pallidum and is most often spread by sexual contact. Syphilis testing screens for the presence of antibodies the body produces in response to the bacteria.

How is the test performed?
An initial blood test is performed to look for antibodies the body produces as a result of the infection. If antibodies are found, a second test, called a reflex test, is performed to confirm the antibodies specifically target the syphilis bacteria to rule out the possibility of a false positive.

Is syphilis curable?
Syphilis can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

What should I do if my results are positive or negative?
It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

If your results were positive: A confirmatory result indicates a high likelihood that you are infected. However, even with confirmation, false positive results can occur. Your tests results should be discussed with your healthcare provider.

If your results were negative: A negative test result simply means the test did not detect the organism and doesn’t necessarily indicate a clean bill of health. If you have symptoms or concerns over potential exposure, you should speak with your healthcare provider.

See other side for more information on the STD Panel.
**Gonorrhea/Chlamydia Screen**

The gonorrhea/chlamydia test is to screen for or diagnose a gonorrhea and/or chlamydia infection. Testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (gonorrhea) is generally done simultaneously as the two organisms have similar clinical presentations. A definitive diagnosis is important since the symptoms of chlamydia can resemble those of gonorrhea and the two infections require different antibiotic treatment.

**Gonorrhea Testing**

The test is looking for presence of the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, which causes the STD. Gonorrhea is generally transmitted through sexual contact (oral, vaginal, or anal) with an infected partner.

**Is gonorrhea curable?**

Gonorrhea can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

**Chlamydia Testing**

This test is looking for evidence of infection by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States and can infect both men and women.

**Is chlamydia curable?**

Chlamydia can be cured when treated with a course of antibiotics.

**What should I do if my gonorrhea/chlamydia test results are abnormal or out of range?**

It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

**If your results were positive:** You should share your results with your healthcare provider to discuss treatment options and/or further testing.

**If your results were negative:** A negative test result simply means the test did not detect the organism and doesn’t necessarily indicate a clean bill of health. If you have symptoms or concerns over potential exposure, you should speak with your healthcare provider.

**HIV-1/2 Antigen & Antibodies, 4th Gen with Reflexes**

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the cause of AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). HIV screening tests detect the HIV antigen (p24) and/or HIV antibodies produced in response to an HIV infection in the blood.

**Is HIV curable?**

There is no cure for HIV, but early treatment can help.

**What should I do if my results are positive or negative?**

It is always recommended to meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you.

**If your results were positive:** Since the HIV test requires a reflex test for confirmation, a person with a positive result is considered to be infected with HIV.

**If your results were negative:** A negative test for HIV antigen and/or HIV antibody usually indicates that a person does not have an HIV infection. A negative screening test means only that there is no evidence of disease at the time of the test, however it is important for those who are at increased risk of HIV infection to have screening tests performed on a yearly basis to check for possible exposure to the virus.

**What other resources are available to learn more about my health and laboratory tests?**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov
- Lab Tests Online: labtestsonline.org
- WebMD: webmd.com

DLO Direct offers direct access to laboratory testing for informational purposes. A DLO Direct lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as medical advice. Only a healthcare provider can interpret lab results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.

Because tests have not been ordered by a healthcare provider, third party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.