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## **ANTI-NUCLEAR ANTIBODY**

Antinuclear antibody (ANA) test is used to detect serum antibodies against various cell nuclear proteins. The ANA test can be useful as a screening test for the diagnosis of autoimmune and connective tissue diseases. Usually the test is performed by immuno-fluorescence microscopy. When performed in this manner, the particular fluorescence pattern is reported (e.g. speckled) as is the highest dilution at which this pattern remains present (e.g. dilutions at our laboratory start at 1:160 and if positive, are then doubled until a titer of 1:1280).

### **Important points about the ANA**

- No one ANA pattern is pathognomonic for a specific connective tissue or autoimmune disorder (e.g. patients with lupus may have a homogenous, speckled or nucleolar patterns. Multiple patterns may sometimes occur in the one patient).
- Low titer ANA (e.g. 1:80 and 1:160) can be due to non-specific inflammation and can be seen in

up to 5-10% of the normal healthy population, particularly in elderly patients.

- The higher the ANA titer, the more likely it is of clinical significance (e.g. even if the patient is asymptomatic and has a titer of 1:640, periodic review is recommended)
- Negative ANA makes systemic lupus unlikely.
- The ANA is a subjective test and significant variation, particularly titer dilution, can occur between laboratories. Hence it is important that if repeating the ANA, it should be sent to the same laboratory for evaluation.

ANA is performed daily at **Medlab Pathology**

Blood tube to collect: Gel tube

If there are any questions regarding ANA interpretation, please call **Medlab** and ask to speak to Dr Sam Mehr, Immunopathologist. ☎ (02) 8745 6500

## **Lab Updates**

### **Collection Guide Chart**

**Medlab** have updated their Collection Guide Chart – there have been a few changes to procedures/Tubes – Vitamins A,E,C & K require a GREEN TOP Tube and the Orange Top Plastic Swab has changes to instructions and determinations. If you would like a new Collection Chart, please do not hesitate to contact our Warehouse and speak to either Rajeeb or Ash about sending some to your Medical Practice. ☎ (02) 8745 6500

### **Request Forms (Pathology Referrals)**

Did you know, that **Medlab** now have over 80 Accredited Collection Centres in the Sydney basin?

Recently, some cosmetic changes were made to our request forms and we also updated our Accredited Collection Centre listing on the back of our request forms. You can order these from our Warehouse, or just ask your **Medlab** Courier to deliver to you!



## Lean Six Sigma Philosophy

What is Lean Sigma and how does it help solve inefficiency problems?

Work Flow in SRA Department according to the Lean Six Sigma Philosophy – **Medlab Pathology**

- Lean Six Sigma helps laboratory personnel increase efficiency without having to work faster or harder. Lean is about learning ways to improve efficiency by working in a different way.
- By processing smaller batches to the end, enables the specimens to move to the next processing area more quickly so there is less time waiting for specimens. An example of this can be shown with processing Microbiology specimens. By processing 30 specimens fully with all paper work accompanying them, these specimens are available for the Microbiology lab for processing, thus eliminating the waste of time for Microbiology staff waiting for all the specimens to be processed. This also enables the request to be data entered more quickly.
- Efficiency starts at receiving. During peak hours, to improve the processing of specimens dedicated areas for particular specimens are allocated. In the Pathology Laboratory, blood specimens are considered priority to Microbiology, Cytology and Histology.
- To this end there are dedicated blood processing stations, Microbiology processing and Cytology/Histology stations. Duties other than processing can be assigned to areas of less need for fast turnover. This can include counting courier specimens, scanning and storage of requests.

Marilyn Mungovan, our Customer Service Manager – **Medlab Pathology**, has completed the transition for Staff in Specimen Reception and Data Entry in the Lean Philosophy with great success, thus providing an even better service to our Clients and Patients.

 (02) 8745 6500

## Pathologist Welcome

Medlab is pleased to welcome two new Consultant Pathologists:

### Dr Danny Hsu

Haematologist  
MBBS, FRCPA, FRACP

### Dr Siew Ean Ooi

Haematologist  
FRCPA, FRACP

**Welcome aboard!**

## Contacts

-  1300 MEDLAB
-  (02) 8745 6500
-  (02) 8745 6572
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-  [www.medlab.com.au](http://www.medlab.com.au)
-  3-5 Rawson Street, Auburn NSW 2144 AUSTRALIA

### Billing

Medlab Pathology will Bulk-Bill patients who provide a current health care, Pensioner or Veteran affairs card.

### Collection Centres

Medlab Pathology has many collection centres with more being added regularly. For your nearest collection centre details, visit our website on:

 [www.medlab.com.au](http://www.medlab.com.au)

### Home collections

Our team of experienced home collectors ensure collection of samples from patient homes, hospitals, nursing homes or workplaces as required. Contact our customer service department to schedule a time that is convenient to your patients.

NB: There will be no extra charge to patients for this service.

 (02) 8745 6549

### Electronic result downloads

HL7 or PIT file electronic result downloads are available to your preferred practice management software immediately upon completion and verification of test results. Please contact our IT helpdesk for further inquiries regarding this service.

 (02) 8745 6553

### Courier network

Our extensive courier network ensures prompt pick-up of samples as well as delivery of hard-copy reports and supplies throughout the day, 7 days a week.

 (02) 8745 6573