

## Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

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### RE: TEST CANCELLATION - Epstein Barr Virus immunoglobulin A (EBV IgA)

The Epstein Barr Virus immunoglobulin A test was introduced more than 20 years ago to assist in diagnosis and post-treatment monitoring of EBV-associated nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC). For diagnosis, this test has always had fairly poor specificity (frequent false positives) which has created problems. Recently, the vendors of the test systems have been unable to guarantee appropriate quality control of the reagents, resulting in more false positives and negatives. At the same time, improvements in other diagnostic and monitoring technologies have made this test redundant. Therefore, the Diagnostic Virology and Reference Laboratory (DVRL), after consultations with key stakeholders, has decided to withdraw this test from use. As of now, the test will no longer be available through the DVRL.

If you require a test for EBV immune status, the appropriate test is called the EBV VCA IgG test which is available through the BCCDC laboratories.

If you have any questions about this, call the DVRL at 604 806 8420.



C.H. Sherlock MD, FRCPC  
Director, Diagnostic Virology and Reference Laboratory  
Microbiologist, Providence Health Care  
Clinical Professor, University of British Columbia  
Medical Microbiologist, Division of Microbiology and Virology



W. Jang  
Technical Leader, Division of Microbiology and Virology  
Providence Health Care