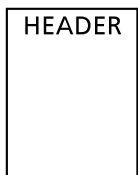


Rev From	Rev To	ECO #	Date	Appr.
0803	1103	2404-03		

Notes

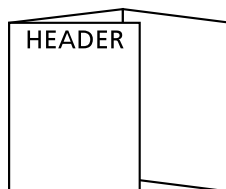
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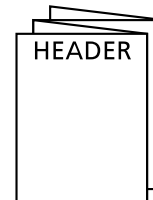
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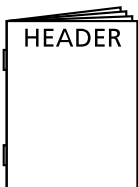


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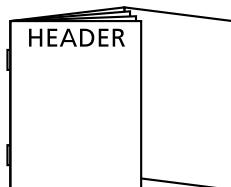


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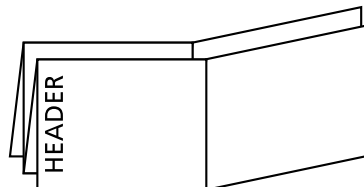
#5




#6



#7



- See Specification Control No. S1333 for Material Information
- Ink Colors: Printed two sides Yes No
 No. of Colors: 1 PMS# 2755
- Graphics are approved by Becton, Dickinson and Company. Supplier has the responsibility for using the most current approved revision level.

Label Design	Date	COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL. THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY AND IS NOT TO BE USED OUTSIDE THE COMPANY WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION	 Becton, Dickinson and Company 250 Schilling Circle Cockeysville, MD. 21030-0243 USA	
Proofer	Date			
Checked By	Date			
Part Number:	S1333	Category and Description Package Insert FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)	Sheet: 1 of 13 Scale: 1:1	A

BD Difco™ FTA Antigen
Difco™ FTA Serum Reactive
Difco™ FTA Serum Non-Reactive
Difco™ FTA Sorbent
Difco™ FTA Sorbent Control
Difco™ FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)
Difco™ Tween™ 80
Difco™ FA Buffer, Dried
Difco™ FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2

English: pages 1-2 Italiano: pagine 7-8
 Français : pages 3-4 Espagnol: páginas 9-10
 Deutsch: Seiten 5-6

CE S1333
2003/11

See symbol glossary at end of insert. / Se symbolglossaret i slutningen af indlægssedlen. / Voir le glossaire des symboles à la fin de la notice. / Siehe Symbol-Erklärungen am Ende der Packungsbeilage. / Δείτε το γλωσσάριο των συμβόλων στο τέλος του ένθετου. / Vedere il glossario dei simboli alla fine del foglio illustrativo. / Consulte o glossário de símbolos no fim do folheto informativo. / Consulte el glosario de símbolos al final del prospecto. / Se symbolförteckningen vid slutet av bipacksedeln.

Kontakt den lokale BD repræsentant for at få instruktioner.

INTENDED USE

These reagents are used in the FTA-ABS (Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody-Absorption) Test. The FTA-ABS test is an indirect fluorescent antibody procedure for detecting human antibody against *Treponema pallidum*, the causative agent of syphilis.

Difco FTA Reagents are not FDA cleared (approved) for use in testing (i.e., screening) blood or plasma donors.

SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

Treponema pallidum is the causative agent of syphilis, a chronic infection with many clinical manifestations. These manifestations occur in distinct stages and detection of each stage requires different laboratory tests.

Since the clinical manifestations of syphilis can be confused with other infectious diseases or with noninfectious conditions that cause skin lesions, proper diagnosis must be based on microscopic examination of lesion material and serological test results.²

The FTA-ABS test is a standard diagnostic test for syphilis as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other standard treponemal tests include the Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody-Absorption Double Staining Test (FTA-ABS DS) and the Microhemagglutination Assay for Antibodies to *Treponema pallidum* (MHA-TP).

Treponemal antigen tests, such as the FTA-ABS test, are used as confirmatory tests in diagnostic cases when the initial nontreponemal test is reactive. The FTA-ABS test also has utility with patients for whom the clinical, historical or epidemiological evidence of syphilis disagrees with nontreponemal tests. The persistent reactivity of the FTA-ABS test to a treated case of syphilis, sometimes for life, minimizes its use for following response to therapy. Therefore, the FTA-ABS test is also unreliable in detecting new untreated cases in epidemiological investigations. The test should not be used as a routine screening procedure.^{3,4} The likelihood of obtaining a reactive FTA-ABS test result in various stages of untreated syphilis has been reported as follows:²

Stage of Untreated Syphilis	% Reactive
Primary	84
Secondary	100
Latent	100
Tertiary (Late)	96

PRINCIPLES OF THE PROCEDURE

Patient serum is diluted 1:5 in sorbent and layered on a microscope slide fixed with *T. pallidum*. If the patient's serum contains antibodies, these antibodies will coat the treponemes on the slide. Fluorescein-labeled antihuman immunoglobulin is added. It combines with the patient antibodies already adhering to the *T. pallidum* and produces fluorescein-stained spirochetes that can be observed with a fluorescence microscope.^{5,6}

REAGENTS

Difco FTA Antigen (also known as *T. pallidum* antigen) is a lyophilized, standardized, killed suspension of *T. pallidum* (Nichols strain).

Difco FTA Serum Reactive is lyophilized, standardized syphilitic human sera containing 0.02% thimerosal as a preservative. It is used to prepare:

- Reactive Control Serum (4+) – Unabsorbed
- Reactive Control Serum (4+) – Absorbed
- Minimally Reactive Control Serum (1+)

It is used as a positive control in the FTA-ABS test.

Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive is lyophilized, standardized, non-syphilitic human sera containing 0.02% thimerosal as a preservative. It is used to make Nonreactive Control Serum (N). It is used as a negative control in the FTA-ABS test.

Difco FTA Sorbent is a lyophilized, standardized extract of the nonpathogenic Reiter treponeme (*Treponema phagedenis*) prepared from broth culture. It is used to remove nonpathogenic treponeme antibodies during preparation of the test specimen.

Difco FTA Sorbent Control is lyophilized, standardized, non-syphilitic human sera containing 0.02% thimerosal as a preservative. It is used to make Non-specific Control Serum – Unabsorbed, which demonstrates at least 2+ nonspecific reactivity at a 1:5 dilution in FA Buffer, and Non-specific Control Serum – Absorbed, which demonstrates essentially no reactivity at a 1:5 dilution in FTA Sorbent.

Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit) is lyophilized, fluorescein-conjugated (FITC) antihuman globulin containing 0.02% thimerosal as a preservative. It is used to show the presence of human syphilitic antibodies on the treponemal antigen.

Difco Tween™ 80 is Polysorbate 80, U.S.P. It is used to prepare 2% Tween 80, which acts as a dispersing agent.

Difco FA Buffer, Dried is phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) which, upon rehydration, yields a 0.85% NaCl solution buffered to pH 7.2. **Difco FA Buffer, Dried** is used in preparing:

- Reactive Control Serum (4+) – Unabsorbed
- Minimally Reactive Control Serum (1+)
- Nonreactive Control Serum (N)
- Non-specific Staining Control – Unabsorbed

Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2 is standardized, reagent grade glycerin adjusted to pH 7.2 for use in mounting specimens on slides to be viewed under the fluorescence microscope.

Warnings and Precautions:

- For *in vitro* Diagnostic Use.
- Difco FTA Serum Reactive**
Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive
Difco FTA Sorbent Control
WARNING! POTENTIAL BIOHAZARDOUS REAGENTS. Each donor unit used in the preparation of these reagents was tested by a FDA-licensed method for the presence of the antibody to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) as well as for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and found to be negative (were not repeatedly reactive).

Because no test method can offer complete assurance that HIV, hepatitis B virus or other infectious agents are absent, these reagents should be handled at the Biosafety Level 2 as recommended for any potentially infectious human serum or blood specimen in the Centers for Disease Control/National Institutes of Health Manual *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, 1999.

- Difco FTA Antigen**
Difco FTA Serum Reactive
Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive
Difco FTA Sorbent
Difco FTA Sorbent Control
Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)
 The Packaging of This Product Contains Dry Natural Rubber.
- Pathogenic microorganisms, including hepatitis viruses and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, may be present in clinical specimens. "Standard Precautions"⁷⁻¹⁰ and institutional guidelines should be followed in handling all items contaminated with blood and other body fluids.

Storage: Store unopened products as specified below:

Difco FTA Antigen	2-8°C
Difco FTA Serum Reactive	2-8°C
Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive	2-8°C
Difco FTA Sorbent	2-8°C
Difco FTA Sorbent Control	2-8°C
Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)	2-8°C in the dark
Difco Tween 80	15-30°C
Difco FA Buffer, Dried	Below 30°C
Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2	15-30°C

Rehydrated **Difco FTA Antigen** stored at 2-8°C is stable for 1 week.

Rehydrated **Difco FA Buffer** showing turbidity or mold growth should be discarded. Discard 2% Tween 80 that exhibits a precipitate or pH change.

Prolonged exposure of reagents to temperatures other than those specified is detrimental to the products.

Product Deterioration: Expiration date applies to product in its intact container when stored as directed. Do not use if the product is caked, discolored or shows other signs of deterioration.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

Test serum: Collect a blood specimen by aseptic venipuncture into a clean, dry tube without anticoagulant. After the specimen has clotted, centrifuge the specimen at 1,500-2,000 rpm for 5 min to obtain test serum. Store specimens at room temperature for up to 4 h or at 2-8°C for up to 5 days; serum specimens may be frozen at or below -20°C.

Test and control sera: Equilibrate the sera to room temperature, then heat at 56°C for 30 min. Reheat previously heated sera for 10 min on the day of testing. Cool to room temperature before testing. Bacterial contamination or excessive hemolysis may render a specimen unsuitable for testing. Such specimens should not be tested.

PROCEDURE

Materials Provided

- Difco FTA Antigen
- Difco FTA Serum Reactive
- Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive
- Difco FTA Sorbent
- Difco FTA Sorbent Control
- Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)
- Difco Tween 80
- Difco FA Buffer, Dried
- Difco FA Mounting Fluid, pH 7.2

Materials Required but Not Provided

- Timer
- Serological pipettes, 0.2 mL, 1 mL, 5 mL
- Micropipettors delivering 10-200 µL
- Test tubes, 12 x 75 mm
- Water bath (56°C)
- Vortex mixer
- Platinum loop, 2 mm, 26 gauge

- Slides, plain or frosted, 1 x 3 inch, 1 mm thick, inscribed with 2 x 1 cm circles
- Staining dish with removable slide carriers
- Slide board or holder
- Moisture chamber
- Acetone
- Bibulous paper
- Purified water
- Incubator, 35-37°C
- Oil, Immersion
- Cover slips, No. 1, 22 mm square
- Fluorescence microscope assembly:
- Lamps: HBO-50, HBO-100, HBO-200 or Xenon XBO-150; 6X 5A Tungsten
- Ocular: 10X
- Objective: 10X, 40X (Fluorite)
- Filters: BG-12 or KP490, K515 or K530
- Condenser: Dark-field D1.20-1.40

Reagent Preparation

FTA Antigen: Rehydrate with 1 mL purified water and rotate to completely dissolve the contents. This solution will yield approximately 3.5 x 10⁷ treponemes per mL. Mix thoroughly with a disposable pipette and rubber bulb, drawing the suspension into and expelling it from the pipette 8-10 times to break treponemal clumps and ensure an even distribution of treponemes. Confirm the even distribution by dark-field examination. Use FTA Antigen in its entirety to prepare antigen smears on the day it is rehydrated. Approximately 200-300 slides may be prepared with 1 mL of antigen.

To prepare FTA Antigen smears:

- Wipe inscribed slides with clean gauze and, if necessary, alcohol to remove dust particles.
- Using a platinum wire loop (2 mm, 26 gauge), smear 1 loopful of reconstituted FTA Antigen within the 2 circles. Air dry at room temperature for at least 15 min.
- Immerse the dry slide into acetone for 10 min to fix the treponemal antigen smear to the slide; air dry. Fix no more than 50 slides per 200 mL of acetone.
- Use slides immediately or store at or below -20°C after acetone fixation. Thaw before use; do not refreeze. Use within 1 year, but only if satisfactory results are obtained with test controls.

FTA Serum Reactive: Rehydrate with 5 mL purified water and rotate gently to completely dissolve the contents. Aliquot in 0.4 mL amounts and store at or below -20°C. Do not refreeze thawed aliquot. Approximately 12 tests may be obtained per 5 mL vial. This serum should be heated at 56°C for 30 min before use.

FTA Serum Non-Reactive: Rehydrate with 5 mL purified water and rotate gently to completely dissolve the contents. Aliquot in 0.4 mL amounts and store at or below -20°C. Approximately 90-100 tests may be obtained per 5 mL vial. This serum should be heated at 56°C for 30 min before use.

FTA Sorbent: Rehydrate with 5 mL purified water and rotate gently to completely dissolve the contents. Store at 2-8°C or aliquot and store at -20°C. The quantity of FTA Sorbent used for each test sample or serum is 0.2 mL. The quantity of FTA Sorbent needed for 3 controls is 0.6 mL. Approximately 20-25 tests may be performed with 5 mL of FTA Sorbent.

FTA Sorbent Control: Rehydrate with 0.5 mL purified water and rotate gently to completely dissolve the contents. Aliquot in 0.25 mL amounts and store at or below -20°C. For each test, 0.1 mL of FTA Sorbent Control is needed. Approximately 2 tests may be performed per 0.5 mL vial because of evaporation from heating. This serum should be heated at 56°C for 30 min before using.

FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit): Rehydrate with 1 mL or 5 mL purified water, depending on label directions. Aliquot in 0.5 mL amounts and store at or below -20°C. Each lot is supplied with a dilution titer. Since conditions and equipment differ from one laboratory to another, it is necessary to titer and test a new lot of conjugate with the fluorescence microscope assembly currently in use.^{3,4,11}

- Prepare serial dilutions in 2% Tween 80, including the titer specified on the vial.
- Test each dilution per the Test Procedure with Reactive Control Serum (4+) and Non-specific Staining Control.
- Test a known lot of conjugate using the Reactive Control Serum (4+), Minimally Reactive Control Serum (1+) and Non-specific Staining Control as controls of the reagents and test conditions.
- The dilution to be used in the test is the dilution that produces 1 doubling dilution lower than the 4+ endpoint. The 4+ endpoint is the highest dilution of conjugate yielding 4+ fluorescence with the Reactive Control Serum (4+).

FA Buffer, Dried: Dissolve 10 g in 1 liter of purified water and rotate gently to completely dissolve the contents. Store at 2-8°C. Use the solution if it is free of mold growth and turbidity.

Tween 80: Heat the bottle of Tween 80 and a flask containing 98 mL FA Buffer to 56°C in a water bath. Add 2 mL of Tween 80 to the buffer and rinse the pipette thoroughly in the buffer. Check the pH and adjust to pH 7.2 with 1N NaOH. Discard if a precipitate develops or the pH changes.

Test Procedure

This procedure conforms to those published by the American Public Health Association.^{6,11}

- FTA Antigen smears:** Obtain previously prepared smears, thaw and dry if appropriate, and identify the frosted end of the slides to correspond with each test and control serum to be tested.
- Prepare the following test and control sera in appropriately identified tubes no more than 30 min before testing and mix thoroughly (at least 8 times):

Test Serum (1:5): Dilute 0.05 mL of heated (or reheated) test serum in 0.2 mL FTA Sorbent.

Reactive Control Serum (4+) – Unabsorbed: Dilute 0.05 mL FTA Serum Reactive in 0.2 mL FA Buffer (PBS).

Reactive Control Serum (4+) – Absorbed: Dilute 0.05 mL FTA Serum Reactive in 0.2 mL FTA Sorbent.

Minimally Reactive Control Serum (1+): Dilute FTA Serum Reactive, as indicated on the label, in FA Buffer (PBS) to yield a 1+ fluorescence. The minimal degree of fluorescence that can be reported as reactive is 1+ fluorescence.

Nonreactive Control Serum (N) (1:40): Prepare a 1:40 dilution of FTA Serum Non-Reactive by adding 0.05 mL (50 µL) of serum to 1.95 mL FA Buffer (PBS).

Non-specific Serum Control – Unabsorbed (≥ 2+ nonspecific reactivity): Dilute 0.05 mL FTA Sorbent Control in 0.2 mL FA Buffer (PBS).

Non-specific Serum Control – Absorbed (nonreactive, – to ±): Dilute 0.05 mL FTA Sorbent Control in 0.2 mL FTA Sorbent.

Non-specific Staining Control – Unabsorbed: Use 0.03 mL FA Buffer (PBS) undiluted.

Non-specific Staining Control – Absorbed: Use 0.03 mL FTA Sorbent undiluted.

- FTA Antigen smears:** Cover the previously identified FTA Antigen smears with 0.03 mL of the corresponding test or control serum prepared above, making certain that the entire smear is covered.
- Place the slides in a moist chamber to prevent evaporation and incubate at 35-37°C for 30 min.
- Place the slides in a slide carrier and rinse as follows:
 - Rinse in running FA Buffer for 5 sec.
 - Soak in FA Buffer for 5 min.
 - Agitate by dipping in and out of the buffer 30 times.
 - Repeat the soaking and agitation in fresh buffer.
 - Rinse in running distilled water for 5 sec.
 - Gently blot dry with bibulous paper.
- FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit):** Dilute the conjugate to its working titer (determined above) using 2% Tween 80 in FA Buffer.
- FTA Antigen smears:** Cover each test and control smear with approximately 0.03 mL of diluted FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit). Spread uniformly to cover the entire smear.
- Repeat steps 4 and 5.
- Mount the slides immediately using a small drop of FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2 and apply a cover slip, being careful not to trap air bubbles in the mounting fluid.
- Immediately examine the slides microscopically for intensity of fluorescence using the microscope assembly described above. If it is necessary to delay reading, store the slides in the dark and read within 4 h. Results are valid only if the quality control pattern is satisfactory.
- Verify the presence of treponemes on the nonreactive control slides by dark-field microscopy.

User Quality Control

Rehydrate and dilute reagents per directions above. Test as described. Tests failing to exhibit the following control results are unsatisfactory and should not be reported.^{4,11}

Serum Tested	Expected Fluorescence	Interpretation
Reactive Control Serum – Unabsorbed	4+	Reactive
Reactive Control Serum – Absorbed	3+ to 4+	Reactive
Minimally Reactive Control Serum	1+	Reactive
Nonreactive Control Serum	N	Nonreactive
Non-specific Serum Control – Unabsorbed	2+ to 4+	Reactive
Non-specific Serum Control – Absorbed	N to ±	Nonreactive
Non-specific Staining Control – Unabsorbed	N	Nonreactive
Non-specific Staining Control – Absorbed	N	Nonreactive

Quality control requirements must be performed in accordance with applicable local, state and/or federal regulations or accreditation requirements and your laboratory's standard Quality Control procedures. It is recommended that the user refer to pertinent NCCLS guidance and CLIA regulations for appropriate Quality Control practices.

RESULTS

Using the 1+ serum control as a reading standard, record the intensity of fluorescence of the treponemes and report as follows. Retest all specimens with an initial test fluorescence of 1+.

Intensity of Fluorescence	Initial Test	Retest	Report
Moderate to strong	2+ to 4+	NA	Reactive
	1+	>1+	Reactive
Equivalent to 1+ control	1+	1+	Reactive minimal*
	1+	<1+	Nonreactive
Visible staining but <1+	± to <1+	NA	Nonreactive
None or vaguely visible, not distinct "Moth eaten" or "beaded"	-	NA	Nonreactive Atypical ¹

*Equivalent result.

¹Atypical or beaded pattern of fluorescence has been described in patients with lupus or other autoimmune diseases.¹¹

Specimens with an initial reading of 1+ and a retest reading of 1+ or greater are reported as reactive. All other results are reported as nonreactive.

Retesting nonreactive specimens is not necessary.

Without historical or clinical evidence of treponemal infection, equivocal test results (see table) suggest the need for testing a second specimen obtained 1-2 weeks after the initial specimen.

LIMITATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

- When the treponemal test results and the clinical opinion disagree, repeat the treponemal test and obtain additional clinical and historical information. If the disagreement persists, send the specimen to a reference laboratory, such as the local state health department, for additional confirmatory tests. The final diagnosis depends on the clinical judgment of a specialist very experienced in sexually transmitted diseases.^{2,3}
- The test should not be used to follow the response to therapy nor can it be relied on to detect new, untreated cases in epidemiological investigations.
- "Atypical" fluorescence and false-positive results have been associated with patients having active systemic, discoid and drug-induced varieties of lupus erythematosus¹²⁻¹⁵ and other autoimmune diseases.
- Elderly patients may exhibit unexplained FTA-ABS reactions.
- At times, deciding whether a reading is weak or vaguely visible may be difficult. The ability to make this distinction is critical, since a nonreactive (vaguely visible to none) serum is not retested.
- The FTA-ABS test may be reactive in persons from areas where yaws or pinta was, or is, endemic.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS¹⁶

The performance of the FTA-ABS test was compared to an ELISA test, the VDRL slide test and the MHA-TP test in a study conducted by Pope, Hunter and Feeley¹⁶ at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. Two hundred and ninety-seven (297) sera were tested by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), VDRL slide test, FTA-ABS test and the microhemagglutination assay for *T. pallidum* antibodies (MHA-TP). Table 1 below shows a comparison of test reactivity by category of disease when testing 75 sera from syphilitic individuals and 222 sera from nonsyphilitic individuals.¹⁶

Table 1

Category	No. Tested	No. with reactivity to:			
		FTA-ABS	ELISA	MHA-TP	VDRL
Primary syphilis					
Untreated	22	22	17	9	17
Treated	2	2	1	2	1
Secondary syphilis					
Untreated	8	8	8	6	8
Treated	12	12	12	12	12
Latent syphilis					
Untreated	13	13	12	12	10
Treated	10	10	10	9	9
Treatment unknown	1	1	1	1	1
Questionable latent	3	3	3	3	0
Neurosyphilis	3	3	2	2	0
Cardiovascular syphilis	1	1	1	1	0
Nonsyphilitic					
Presumed Normal	178	1	1	1	0
Biological false-positive	15	1	0	0	7
Diseases other than syphilis	29	1	1	0	1

Table 2 below lists the sensitivities and specificities of each method published in this study.¹⁶

Table 2

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity
FTA-ABS	100%	97.8%
ELISA	89.3%	98.5%
MHA-TP	76%	98.2%
VDRL	93.3%	92.7%

AVAILABILITY

Cat. No.	Description
223441	Difco™ FTA Antigen, 1 mL
224401	Difco™ FTA Serum Non-Reactive, 5 mL
224391	Difco™ FTA Serum Reactive, 5 mL
232591	Difco™ FTA Sorbent, 5 mL
232592	Difco™ FTA Sorbent, 6 x 5 mL
232661	Difco™ FTA Sorbent Control, 6 x 0.5 mL
223143	Difco™ FA Buffer, Dried, 6 x 10 g
223142	Difco™ FA Buffer, Dried, 100 g
224491	Difco™ FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 1 mL
224492	Difco™ FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 5 mL
223291	Difco™ FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2, 6 x 5 mL
231181	Difco™ Tween™ 80, 100 g

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FTA-ABS Test Procedure

Abbreviated Schematic

Step 1.	Step 2.	Step 3.	Step 4.	Step 5.
Prepare sera and reagents.	Dilute sera.	Add test/control serum to appropriate FTA Antigen smears.	Add conjugate to FTA Antigen smears.	Record reactions of test and control sera. Verify that the control sera provided the expected results.

FTA Antigen	FTA Antigen Smear
Rehydrate with 1 mL purified water. Prepare smears. Fix with acetone. Use as "FTA Antigen smear."	Thaw, dry and identify sufficient FTA Antigen smears to correspond with each of the test and control sera to be tested.

Test (Patient) Serum				
Heat at 56°C for 30 min or reheat previously heated serum for 10 min.	Dilute 1:5 by adding 0.05 mL serum to 0.2 mL in FTA Sorbent.	Apply 0.03 mL test serum to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	Dependent on antibody status or test serum.

FTA Serum Reactive				
Rehydrate with 5 mL purified water. Heat at 56°C for 30 min.	Dilute 1:5 by adding 0.05 mL FTA Serum Reactive to 0.2 mL FA Buffer.	Apply 0.03 mL Reactive Control Serum - Unabsorbed to an FTA Antigen Smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	4+ Reactive
	Dilute 1:5 by adding 0.05 mL FTA Serum Reactive to 0.2 mL FTA Sorbent.	Apply 0.03 mL Reactive Control Serum - Absorbed to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	3+ to 4+ Reactive

Minimally Reactive Control Serum (1+)				
Dilute FTA Serum Reactive to 1+ fluorescence (labeled titer) in FA Buffer.	Apply 0.03 mL Minimally Reactive Control Serum to an FTA Antigen Smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.		1+ Reactive

FTA Serum Non-Reactive				
Rehydrate with 5 mL purified water. Heat at 56°C for 30 min.	Dilute 1:40 by adding 0.05 mL FTA Serum Non-Reactive to 1.95 mL FA Buffer.	Apply 0.03 mL Nonreactive Control Serum to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	N - Nonreactive

FTA Sorbent Control				
Rehydrate with 0.5 mL purified water. Heat at 56°C for 30 min.	Dilute 1:5 by adding 0.05 mL FTA Sorbent Control to 0.2 mL FA Buffer.	Apply 0.03 mL Nonspecific Serum Control - Unabsorbed to an FTA Antigen Smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	2+ to 4+ Reactive
	Dilute 1:5 by adding 0.05 mL FTA Sorbent Control to 0.2 mL FTA Sorbent.	Apply 0.03 mL Nonspecific Serum Control - Absorbed to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	N to ± Nonreactive

FA Buffer, Dried				
Dissolve 10 g in 1 L purified water.	Use 0.03 mL FA Buffer undiluted as the diluent (above) and as the Nonspecific Staining Control - Unabsorbed.	Apply 0.03 mL Nonspecific Staining Control - Unabsorbed to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	N - Nonreactive
	Use 0.03 mL FA Sorbent undiluted as the diluent (above) and as the Nonspecific Staining Control - Absorbed.	Apply 0.03 mL Nonspecific Staining Control - Absorbed to an FTA Antigen smear. Incubate smear. Rinse.	Apply 0.03 mL conjugate to the smear. Incubate, rinse and mount slide. Examine microscopically.	N - Nonreactive

FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)				
Rehydrate with 1 mL or 5 mL purified water. Determine titer if a new lot.	Dilute to labeled titer with 2% Tween. Use as "Conjugate."			

Tween 80				
Heat Tween 80 and FA Buffer to 56°C.				
Add 2 mL Tween 80 to 98 mL FA Buffer. Adjust to pH 7.2. Use as "2% Tween."				

Sérum testé	Fluorescence attendue	Interprétation
Sérum de contrôle réactif - Non absorbé	4+	Réactif
Sérum de contrôle réactif - Absorbé	3+ à 4+	Réactif
Sérum de contrôle présentant une réactivité minimale	1+	Réactif
Sérum de contrôle non réactif	N	Non réactif
Contrôle sérique non spécifique - Non absorbé	2+ à 4+	Réactif
Contrôle sérique non spécifique - Absorbé	N à ±	Non réactif
Contrôle de marquage non spécifique - Non absorbé	N	Non réactif
Contrôle de marquage non spécifique - Absorbé	N	Non réactif

Effectuer les contrôles de qualité conformément aux réglementations nationales et/ou internationales, aux exigences des organismes d'homologation concernés et aux procédures de contrôle de qualité en vigueur dans l'établissement. Il est recommandé à l'utilisateur de consulter les directives NCCLS et la réglementation CLIA concernées pour plus d'informations sur les modalités de contrôle de qualité.

RESULTATS

En utilisant le contrôle sérique 1+ comme standard de lecture, observer l'intensité de fluorescence des tréponèmes et rapporter les résultats comme suit. Tester à nouveau tous les échantillons dont la fluorescence initiale est d'intensité 1+.

Intensité de fluorescence	Test initial	Nouveau test	Rapport
Modérée à forte	2+ à 4+	SO	Réactif
	1+	>1+	Réactif
Equivalente au contrôle 1+	1+	1+	Réactivité minimale*
	1+	<1+	Non réactif
Marquage visible mais d'intensité <1+ ± à <1+	SO	SO	Non réactif
Absente ou vaguement visible ; non distincte	-	SO	Non réactif
« Mouchetée » ou « perlée »			Atypique [†]

*Résultat incertain.

†Des caractéristiques de fluorescence atypique ou perlée ont été décrites chez les patients atteints de lupus ou d'autres maladies auto-immunes.¹¹

Les échantillons dont la fluorescence initiale est d'intensité 1+, puis 1+ ou supérieure après un nouveau test sont rapportés comme positifs. Tous les autres résultats sont rapportés comme non positifs.

Il n'est pas nécessaire de tester de nouveau les échantillons non positifs.

En l'absence d'antécédents ou de signe clinique d'infection à tréponèmes, des résultats de tests incertains (voir tableau) laissent à penser qu'il est nécessaire de tester un second échantillon obtenu une à deux semaines après le prélèvement initial.

LIMITES DE LA PROCEDURE

- Lorsque les résultats du test tréponémique et l'évaluation clinique sont contradictoires, répéter le test tréponémique et solliciter un complément d'information sur le tableau clinique et les antécédents du patient. Si le désaccord persiste, adresser l'échantillon à un laboratoire de référence national pour faire réaliser des tests de confirmation complémentaires. Le diagnostic définitif doit être porté par un clinicien expert en maladies sexuellement transmissibles.^{2,3}
- Le test ne doit pas être utilisé pour suivre la réponse au traitement ni pour détecter les nouveaux cas non traités lors d'études épidémiologiques.
- Des caractéristiques de fluorescence « atypiques » et des faux positifs ont été décrits chez les patients atteints de lupus érythémateux systémique, chronique (discoïde) ou d'origine médicamenteuse¹²⁻¹⁵ ou d'autres maladies auto-immunes.
- Les échantillons provenant de personnes âgées peuvent produire des réactions inexplicables avec le test FTA-ABS.
- Il est parfois difficile de qualifier une fluorescence de faible ou vaguement visible. La capacité à opérer cette distinction est essentielle, car un sérum non réactif (fluorescence vague ou absente) n'est pas testé une nouvelle fois.

Mode opératoire du test FTA-ABS

Schéma abrégé

Etape 1.	Etape 2.	Etape 3.	Etape 4.	Etape 5.
Préparer les sérums et les réactifs.	Diluer les sérums.	Ajouter le sérum à tester/sérum de contrôle aux frottis de FTA Antigen correspondants.	Ajouter le conjugué aux frottis de FTA Antigen.	Observer les réactions obtenues avec les sérums à tester et les sérums de contrôle. S'assurer que les sérums de contrôle donnent les résultats attendus.
FTA Antigen	Frottis de FTA Antigen	Sérum à tester (clinique)		
Reconstituer avec 1 mL d'eau purifiée. Préparer des frottis. Fixer à l'acétone. Utiliser comme « frottis de FTA Antigen ».	Décongeler et sécher un nombre suffisant de frottis de FTA Antigen, puis les identifier pour les faire correspondre aux sérums de contrôle et aux sérums à tester.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum à tester sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	Fonction de la présence ou de l'absence d'anticorps, ou du sérum à tester.
FTA Serum Reactive	Sérum de contrôle réactif (4+) – Non absorbé	Sérum de contrôle réactif (4+) – Absorbé	Sérum de contrôle présentant une réactivité minimale (1+)	
Reconstituer avec 5 mL d'eau purifiée. Faire chauffer à 56 °C pendant 30 min.	Diluer au 1/5 en ajoutant 0,05 mL de FTA Serum Reactive à 0,2 mL de FA Buffer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum de contrôle réactif (non absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	Réactif, 4+
	Diluer au 1/5 en ajoutant 0,05 mL de FTA Serum Reactive à 0,2 mL de FTA Sorbent.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum de contrôle réactif (absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	Réactif, 3+ à 4+
	Diluer du FTA Serum Reactive avec du FA Buffer afin d'obtenir une fluorescence d'intensité 1+ (titre indiqué sur l'étiquette).	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum de contrôle présentant une réactivité minimale sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	Réactif, 1+
FTA Serum Non-Reactive	Sérum de contrôle non réactif			
Reconstituer avec 5 mL d'eau purifiée. Faire chauffer à 56 °C pendant 30 min.	Diluer au 1/40 en ajoutant 0,05 mL de FTA Serum Non-Reactive à 1,95 mL de FA Buffer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum de contrôle non réactif sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	N – Non réactif
FTA Sorbent Control	Contrôle sérique non spécifique – Non absorbé	Contrôle sérique non spécifique – Absorbé		
Reconstituer avec 0,5 mL d'eau purifiée. Faire chauffer à 56 °C pendant 30 min.	Diluer au 1/5 en ajoutant 0,05 mL de FTA Sorbent Control à 0,2 mL de FA Sorbent.	Déposer 0,03 mL de contrôle sérique non spécifique (non absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	Réactif, 2+ à 4+
	Diluer au 1/5 en ajoutant 0,05 mL de FTA Sorbent Control à 0,2 mL de FA Sorbent.	Déposer 0,03 mL de contrôle sérique non spécifique (absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	N à ± non réactif
FA Buffer, Dried	Contrôle sérique non spécifique – Non absorbé			
Dissoudre 10 g dans 1 L d'eau purifiée.	Utiliser 0,03 mL de FA Buffer non dilué comme diluant (ci-dessus) et contrôle de marquage non spécifique (non absorbé).	Déposer 0,03 mL de contrôle de marquage non spécifique (non absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	N – Non réactif
FTA Sorbent	Contrôle de marquage non spécifique – Absorbé			
Reconstituer avec 5 mL d'eau purifiée.	Utiliser 0,03 mL de FTA Sorbent non dilué comme diluant (ci-dessus) et contrôle de marquage non spécifique (absorbé).	Déposer 0,03 mL de contrôle de marquage non spécifique (absorbé) sur un frottis de FTA Antigen. Incuber le frottis. Rincer.	Déposer 0,03 mL de sérum conjugué sur le frottis. Incuber, rincer et monter la lame. Examiner au microscope.	N – Non réactif
FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)				
Reconstituer avec 1 mL ou 5 mL d'eau purifiée. Déterminer le titre s'il s'agit d'un nouveau lot.	Diluer au titre indiqué sur l'étiquette avec du Tween à 2 %. Utiliser comme « conjugué ».			
Tween 80				
Faire chauffer le Tween 80 et le FA Buffer à 56 °C.				
Ajouter 2 mL de Tween 80 à 98 mL de FA Buffer. Ajuster à pH 7,2. Utiliser comme « Tween à 2 % ».				

6. Le test FTA-ABS peut être sensible chez les personnes vivant dans des zones où le pian ou le caraté sont (ou ont été) endémiques.

CARACTERISTIQUES DE PERFORMANCES¹⁶

Les performances du test FTA-ABS ont été comparées à celles d'un test ELISA, du test VDRL sur lame et du test MHA-TP dans une étude menée par Pope, Hunter et Feeley¹⁶ au centre épidémiologique d'Atlanta aux Etats-Unis. 297 sérums ont été testés par méthode immunoenzymatique ELISA, test VDRL sur lame, test FTA-ABS et test de micro-hémagglutination des anticorps spécifiques de *T. pallidum* (MHA-TP). Le tableau 1 ci-dessous récapitule les résultats d'une étude de comparaison de la sensibilité des tests par classe d'affection à partir des résultats obtenus sur 75 sérums syphilitiques et 222 sérums non syphilitiques.¹⁶

Tableau 1

Classe	Nb. d'échantillons testés	Nb. d'échantillons réactifs à :			
		FTA-ABS	ELISA	MHA-TP	VDRL
Syphilis primaire					
Non traitée	22	22	17	9	17
Traitée	2	2	1	2	1
Syphilis secondaire					
Non traitée	8	8	8	6	8
Traitée	12	12	12	12	12
Syphilis latente					
Non traitée	13	13	12	12	10
Traitée	10	10	10	9	9
Statut du traitement inconnu	1	1	1	1	1
Latente incertaine	3	3	3	3	0
Neurosyphilis	3	3	2	2	0
Syphilis cardiovasculaire	1	1	1	1	0
Non syphilitique					
Présumé sain	178	1	1	1	0
Faux positif biologique	15	1	0	0	7
Affections autres que la syphilis	29	1	1	0	1

Le tableau 2 ci-dessous récapitule les sensibilités et spécificités de chacune des méthodes publiées dans cette étude.¹⁶

Tableau 2

Test	Sensibilité	Spécificité
FTA-ABS	100%	97,8%
ELISA	89,3%	98,5%
MHA-TP	76%	98,2%
VDRL	93,3%	92,7%

CONDITIONNEMENT

No réf.	Description
223441	Difco FTA Antigen, 1 mL
224401	Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive, 5 mL
224391	Difco FTA Serum Reactive, 5 mL
232591	Difco FTA Sorbent, 5 mL
232592	Difco FTA Sorbent, 6 x 5 mL
232661	Difco FTA Sorbent Control, 6 x 0.5 mL
223143	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 6 x 10 g
223142	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 100 g
224491	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 1 mL
224492	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 5 mL
223291	Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7,2, 6 x 5 mL
231181	Difco Tween 80, 100 g

REFERENCES : voir la rubrique « References » du texte anglais.

- Mit Hilfe der oben beschriebenen Mikroskop-Konfiguration sofort die Fluoreszenzstärke der Objektträger untersuchen. Falls diese Untersuchung erst später stattfinden kann, die Objektträger im Dunkeln lagern und innerhalb von 4 h untersuchen. Die Ergebnisse sind nur bei zufriedenen stellendem Qualitätskontrollmuster gültig.
- Die nicht reaktiven Kontroll-Objektträger mittels Dunkelfeld-Mikroskop im Hinblick auf das Vorliegen von Treponemen überprüfen.

Qualitätssicherung durch den Anwender

Die Reagenzien gemäß den obigen Anweisungen rehydrieren und verdünnen. Wie beschrieben testen. Tests, welche nicht die folgenden Kontrollergebnisse erbringen, sind nicht zufrieden stellend und sollten nicht berichtet werden.^{4,11}

Getestetes Serum	Zu erwartende Fluoreszenz	Interpretation
Reaktives Kontrollserum - nicht absorbiert	4+	Reaktiv
Reaktives Kontrollserum - absorbiert	3+ bis 4+	Reaktiv
Minimal reaktives Kontrollserum	1+	Reaktiv
Nicht reaktives Kontrollserum	N	Nicht reaktiv
Unspezifische Serumkontrolle - nicht absorbiert	2+ bis 4+	Reaktiv
Unspezifische Serumkontrolle - absorbiert	N bis ±	Nicht reaktiv
Unspezifische Färbungskontrolle - nicht absorbiert	N	Nicht reaktiv
Unspezifische Färbungskontrolle - absorbiert	N	Nicht reaktiv

Es sind die geltenden gesetzlichen und behördlichen und in den Akkreditierungsbedingungen festgelegten Vorschriften zur Qualitätskontrolle sowie die laborinternen Standardvorgaben zur Qualitätskontrolle zu beachten. Benutzer sollten die relevanten NCCLS-Dokumente und CLIA-Vorschriften über geeignete Testverfahren zur Qualitätskontrolle einsehen.

ERGEBNISSE

Die Treponemen-Fluoreszenzstärke unter Verwendung der Serumkontrolle 1+ als Messstandard aufzeichnen und folgendermaßen berichten. Alle Proben, deren Fluoreszenzgrad beim ersten Test 1+ beträgt, einem Wiederholungstest unterziehen.

Fluoreszenzstärke	Erster Test	Wiederholungstest	Bericht
Mäßig bis stark	2+ bis 4+	NZ	Reaktiv
	1+	>1+	Reaktiv
Der Kontrolle 1+ vergleichbar	1+	1+	Minimal reaktiv*
	1+	<1+	Nicht reaktiv
Sichtbare Färbung, jedoch <1+ ± bis <1+		NZ	Nicht reaktiv
Nicht vorhanden oder vage erkennbar, nicht deutlich „Mottenfraß“ oder „Perlen“	-	NZ	Nicht reaktiv
			Atypisch [†]

*Zweideutig.

[†]Atypische oder Perlen-Fluoreszenzmuster wurden bei Patienten mit Lupus oder anderen Autoimmunerkrankungen vermeldet.¹¹

Proben mit Messwerten von 1+ beim ersten Test und Wiederholungstestwerten von mindestens 1+ werden als reaktiv berichtet. Alle anderen Ergebnisse werden als nicht reaktiv berichtet. Für nicht reaktive Proben ist kein Wiederholungstest erforderlich. Liegen keine Anamnese- oder klinischen Indizien für eine Treponemen-Infektion vor, legen zweideutige Testergebnisse (siehe Tabelle) die Notwendigkeit des Testens einer zweiten Probe nahe, welche 1 – 2 Wochen nach der ersten Probe entnommen werden sollte.

VERFAHRENSBESCHRÄNKUNGEN

- In Fällen, in denen Treponema-Testergebnisse und klinisches Urteil nicht übereinstimmen, den Treponema-Test wiederholen und zusätzliche klinische und Anamnesedaten einholen. Ergibt sich auch weiterhin keine Übereinstimmung, die Probe für zusätzliche Bestätigungstests an ein Referenzlabor übersenden (z.B. an das Landesgesundheitsamt). Die letztendliche Diagnose sollte sich auf das klinische Urteil eines Spezialisten mit umfassender Erfahrung auf dem Gebiet der Geschlechtskrankheiten stützen.^{2,3}
- Der Test sollte nicht zur Verlaufskontrolle des Therapieerfolgs herangezogen werden und stellt auch keine zuverlässige Methode für die Erkennung neuer unbehandelter Fälle im Rahmen epidemiologischer Untersuchungen dar.

FTA-ABS-Testverfahren

Kurzübersicht

Schritt 1	Schritt 2	Schritt 3	Schritt 4	Schritt 5
Seren und Reagenzien vorbereiten.	Seren verdünnen.	Test-/Kontrollserum zu entsprechenden FTA Antigen-Ausstrichen hinzugeben.	Konjugat zu FTA Antigen-Ausstrichen hinzugeben.	Test- und Kontrollserenreaktionen aufzeichnen. Bestätigen, dass die Kontrollseren die erwarteten Ergebnisse erbrachten.
FTA Antigen	FTA Antigen-Ausstrich	Testserum (Patientenserum)		
Mit 1 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren. Ausstriche vorbereiten. Mit Aceton fixieren. Als „FTA Antigen-Ausstrich“ verwenden.	Eine ausreichende FTA Antigen-Ausstrichmenge für alle zu untersuchenden Test- und Kontrollseren auftauen, trocknen und kennzeichnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL Testserum geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	Abhängig von Antikörperstatus bzw. Testserum.
FTA Serum Reactive	Reaktives Kontrollserum (4+) – nicht absorbiert	Reaktives Kontrollserum (4+) – absorbiert	Minimal reaktives Kontrollserum (1+)	
Mit 5 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren. Bei 56 °C 30 min lang erhitzen.	Durch Zugabe von 0,05 mL FTA Serum Reactive zu 0,2 mL FA Buffer im Verhältnis 1:5 verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL reaktives Kontrollserum – nicht absorbiert geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	Reaktiv (4+)
	Durch Zugabe von 0,05 mL FTA Serum Reactive zu 0,2 mL FTA Sorbent im Verhältnis 1:5 verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL reaktives Kontrollserum – absorbiert geben. Inkubieren, austreichen. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	Reaktiv (3+ bis 4+)
	FTA Serum Reactive mit FA Buffer auf einen Fluoreszenzgrad von 1+ (Kennzeichnungstiter) verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL minimal reaktives Kontrollserum geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	Reaktiv (1+)
FTA Serum Non-Reactive	Nicht reaktives Kontrollserum	Unspezifische Serumkontrolle – nicht absorbiert		
Mit 5 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren. Bei 56 °C 30 min lang erhitzen.	Durch Zugabe von 0,05 mL FTA Serum Non-Reactive zu 1,95 mL FA Buffer im Verhältnis 1:40 verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL nicht reaktives Kontrollserum geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	N – Nicht reaktiv
FTA Sorbent Control	Unspezifische Serumkontrolle – nicht absorbiert	Unspezifische Serumkontrolle – absorbiert		
Mit 0,5 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren. Bei 56 °C 30 min lang erhitzen.	Durch Zugabe von 0,05 mL FTA Sorbent Control zu 0,2 mL FA Sorbent im Verhältnis 1:5 verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL unspezifisches Kontrollserum – nicht absorbiert geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	Reaktiv (2+ bis 4+)
	Durch Zugabe von 0,05 mL FTA Sorbent Control zu 0,2 mL FA Sorbent im Verhältnis 1:5 verdünnen.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL unspezifisches Kontrollserum – absorbiert geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	N bis ± nicht reaktiv
FA Buffer, Dried	Unspezifische Serumkontrolle – nicht absorbiert	Unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – absorbiert		
In 1 L destilliertem Wasser 10 g auflösen.	Als Verdünnungsmittel (siehe oben) und als unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – nicht absorbiert 0,03 mL unverdünnten FA Buffer verwenden.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – nicht absorbiert geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	N – Nicht reaktiv
FTA Sorbent	Unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – absorbiert	FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)		
Mit 5 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren.	Als Verdünnungsmittel (siehe oben) und als unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – absorbiert 0,03 mL unverdünntes FTA Sorbent verwenden.	Auf einen FTA Antigen-Ausstrich 0,03 mL unspezifische Färbungskontrolle – absorbiert geben. Den Ausstrich inkubieren. Abspülen.	Auf den Ausstrich 0,03 mL Konjugat geben. Objektträger inkubieren, abspülen und fixieren. Unter dem Mikroskop untersuchen.	N – Nicht reaktiv
FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)	Mit 1 mL bzw. 5 mL destilliertem Wasser rehydrieren. Bei neuen Chargen den Titer ermitteln.	Mit 2%igem Tween auf den Kennzeichnungstiter verdünnen. Als „Konjugat“ verwenden.		
Tween 80	Tween 80 und FA Buffer auf 56 °C erwärmen.			
Zu 98 mL FA Buffer 2 mL Tween 80 hinzugeben. Auf einen pH-Wert von 7,2 einstellen. Als „2%iges Tween“ verwenden.				

- „Atypische“ Fluoreszenz und falsch positive Ergebnisse werden mit Patienten assoziiert, die an aktiven systemischen, diskoiden und arzneimittelinduzierten Formen von Lupus erythematoses¹²⁻¹⁵ und anderen Autoimmunerkrankungen leiden.
- Bei älteren Patienten können sich ungeklärte FTA-ABS-Reaktionen ergeben.
- Die Entscheidung, ob eine Messung schwach oder vage erkennbar ist, kann schwierig sein. Diese Entscheidungsfällung ist jedoch von größter Bedeutung, da bei nicht reaktiven (vage erkennbar bis nicht vorhanden) Seren kein Wiederholungstest durchgeführt wird.
- Der FTA-ABS-Test kann bei Personen reaktiv sein, die aus Gebieten stammen, in denen Frambösie- oder Pinta-Endemien aufgetreten sind oder noch gegeben sind.

LEISTUNGSMERKMALE¹⁶

In einer von Pope, Hunter und Feeley¹⁶ im US-amerikanischen Seuchenschutzamt Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (im Bundesstaat Georgia) durchgeführten Studie wurde die Leistung des FTA-ABS-Tests mit der eines ELISA-Tests, der des VDRL-Objektträgertests und der des MHA-TP-Tests verglichen. Es wurden zweihundertundsiebendundneunzig (297) Seren getestet, wobei ein enzymgebundener Immunosorbensassay (ELISA), der VDRL-Objektträgerstest, der FTA-ABS-Test und der Mikro-Hämagglutinationsassay auf *T. pallidum*-Antikörper (MHA-TP) zum Einsatz kamen. Tabelle 1 im Folgenden zeigt einen Vergleich der Testreaktivität nach Krankheitskategorie, der sich beim Testen von 75 Seren von syphilitischen Personen und 222 Seren von nicht syphilitischen Personen ergab.¹⁶

Tabelle 1

Kategorie	Getestete Anzahl	Anzahl mit Reaktivität bei:			
		FTA-ABS	ELISA	MHA-TP	VDRL
Syphilis im Primärstadium					
Unbehandelt	22	22	17	9	17
Behandelt	2	2	1	2	1
Syphilis im Sekundärstadium					
Unbehandelt	8	8	8	6	8
Behandelt	12	12	12	12	12
Syphilis in der Latenzphase					
Unbehandelt	13	13	12	12	10
Behandelt	10	10	10	9	9
Behandlung unbekannt	1	1	1	1	1
Fragliche Latenz	3	3	3	3	0
Neurosyphilis	3	3	2	2	0
Kardiovaskuläre Syphilis	1	1	1	1	0
Keine Syphilis					
Vermutlich normal	178	1	1	1	0
Biologisch falsch positiv	15	1	0	0	7
Andere Erkrankungen außer Syphilis	29	1	1	0	1

In Tabelle 2 im Folgenden sind die Empfindlichkeiten und Spezifitäten jeder im Rahmen dieser Studie veröffentlichten Methode aufgeführt.¹⁶

Tabelle 2

Test	Empfindlichkeit	Spezifität
FTA-ABS	100%	97,8%
ELISA	89,3%	98,5%
MHA-TP	76%	98,2%
VDRL	93,3%	92,7%

LIEFERBARE PRODUKTE

Best.-Nr.	Beschreibung
223441	Difco FTA Antigen, 1 mL
224401	Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive, 5 mL
224391	Difco FTA Serum Reactive, 5 mL
232591	Difco FTA Sorbent, 5 mL
232592	Difco FTA Sorbent, 6 x 5 mL
232661	Difco FTA Sorbent Control, 6 x 0,5 mL
223143	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 6 x 10 g
223142	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 100 g
224491	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 1 mL
224492	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 5 mL
223291	Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7.2, 6 x 5 mL
231181	Difco Tween 80, 100 g

LITERATUR: S. „References“ im englischen Text.

Siero testato	Fluorescenza attesa	Interpretazione
Siero di controllo reattivo – Non assorbito	4+	Reattivo
Siero di controllo reattivo – Assorbito	3+ a 4+	Reattivo
Siero di controllo minimamente reattivo	1+	Reattivo
Siero di controllo non reattivo	N	Non Reattivo
Controllo siero non specifico – Non assorbito	2+ a 4+	Reattivo
Controllo siero non specifico – Assorbito	N a ±	Non Reattivo
Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Non assorbito	N	Non Reattivo
Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Assorbito	N	Non Reattivo

Le procedure prescritte per il controllo di qualità devono essere effettuate in conformità alle norme vigenti o ai requisiti di accreditazione e alla prassi di controllo di qualità in uso nel laboratorio. Per una guida alla prassi di controllo di qualità appropriata, si consiglia di consultare le norme CLIA e la documentazione NCCLS in merito.

RISULTATI

Usando il controllo siero 1+ come standard di lettura, registrare l'intensità della fluorescenza dei treponemi e riferirla come segue. Ritestare tutti i campioni che al test iniziale hanno sviluppato una fluorescenza di 1+.

Intensità della fluorescenza	Test iniziale	Nuovo test	Referto
Moderata – intensa	Da 2+ a 4+	NA	Reattivo
	1+	>1+	Reattivo
Equivalente a controllo 1+	1+	1+	Minimamente reattivo*
	1+	<1+	Non Reattivo
Colorazione visibile ma <1+	Da ± a <1+	NA	Non Reattivo
Nessuna o vagamente visibile, indistinta	–	NA	Non Reattivo
"A chiazze" o "perliforme"			Atipico ¹

*Risultato equivoco.

¹Pattern di fluorescenza atipici o perliformi sono stati descritti in pazienti con lupus o altre malattie autoimmuni.¹¹

I campioni con una lettura iniziale di 1+ e i campioni ritestati con una lettura di 1+ o maggiore sono referatati come reattivi. Tutti gli altri risultati sono referatati come non reattivi.

Non è necessario ritestare i campioni non reattivi.

Senza riscontri anamnestici o clinici di infezione treponemica, i risultati equivoci (vedere tabella) indicano la necessità di testare un secondo campione prelevato 1 – 2 settimane dopo il campione iniziale.

LIMITAZIONI DELLA PROCEDURA

- In caso di discordanza tra i risultati dei test treponemici e la valutazione clinica, ripetere il test treponemico e raccogliere altre informazioni cliniche e anamnestiche. Se la discordanza persiste, inviare il campione a un laboratorio di riferimento, come per esempio il locale dipartimento di igiene, per ulteriori test di conferma. La diagnosi finale dipende dalla valutazione clinica di uno specialista in malattie sessualmente trasmesse.^{2,3}
- Non usare il test per seguire la risposta alla terapia né per rilevare in ricerche epidemiologiche - nuovi casi non trattati.
- Fluorescenza "atipica" e risultati falsamente positivi sono stati associati a pazienti affetti da varietà sistemiche, discoidi e farmaco-indotte di lupus erythematosus¹²⁻¹⁵ e altre malattie autoimmuni.
- I pazienti anziani possono manifestare reazioni FTA-ABS inspiegate.
- La decisione circa l'interpretazione di una lettura come debole o vagamente visibile può talvolta essere difficile. La capacità di fare questa distinzione è decisiva in quanto un siero non reattivo (vagamente visibile o non reattivo) non viene ritestato.

Procedura del test FTA-ABS

Schema abbreviato

Fase 1.	Fase 2.	Fase 3.	Fase 4.	Fase 5.
Preparare i sieri e i reagenti.	Diluire i sieri.	Dispensare il siero per il test/di controllo sugli strisci FTA Antigen appropriati.	Dispensare il coniugato sugli strisci FTA Antigen.	Annotare le reazioni dei sieri per il test e di controllo. Verificare che i sieri di controllo producano i risultati attesi.
FTA Antigen	Strisci FTA Antigen	Siero per il test (paziente)		
Reidratare con 1 mL di acqua purificata. Preparare gli strisci. Fissare con acetone. Usare come "striscio FTA Antigen".	Scongellare, asciugare e identificare gli strisci FTA Antigen per la corrispondenza con ogni test e siero di controllo da testare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di siero per il test su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	A seconda dello stato anticorpale o del siero da testare.
FTA Serum Reactive	Siero di controllo reattivo (4+) – Non assorbito	Siero di controllo reattivo (4+) – Assorbito	Siero di controllo minimamente reattivo (1+)	
Reidratare con 5 mL di acqua purificata. Riscaldare a 56 °C per 30 min.	Diluire 1:5 dispensando 0,05 mL di FTA Serum Reactive in 0,2 mL di FA Buffer.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Siero di controllo reattivo – Non assorbito su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	4+ Reattivo
	Diluire 1:5 dispensando 0,05 mL di FTA Serum Reactive in 0,2 mL di FTA Sorbent.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Siero di controllo reattivo – Assorbito su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	Da 3+ a 4+ Reattivo
	Diluire FTA Serum Reactive in modo da ottenere una fluorescenza 1+ (titolo indicato in etichetta) in FA Buffer.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Siero di controllo minimamente reattivo su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	1+ Reattivo
FTA Serum Non-Reactive	Siero di controllo non reattivo	Controllo siero non specifico - Non assorbito		
Reidratare con 5 mL di acqua purificata. Riscaldare a 56 °C per 30 min.	Diluire 1:40 dispensando 0,05 mL di FTA Serum Reactive in 1,95 mL di FA Buffer.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Siero di controllo non reattivo su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	N - Non reattivo
FTA Sorbent Control	Controllo siero non specifico - Non assorbito	Controllo siero non specifico - Assorbito		
Reidratare con 0,5 mL di acqua purificata. Riscaldare a 56 °C per 30 min.	Diluire 1:5 dispensando 0,05 mL di FTA Sorbent Control in 0,2 mL di FA Sorbent.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Controllo siero non specifico – Non assorbito su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	Da 2+ a 4+ Reattivo
	Diluire 1:5 dispensando 0,05 mL di FTA Sorbent Control in 0,2 mL di FTA Sorbent.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Controllo siero non specifico – Assorbito su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	N - ± Non reattivo
FA Buffer, Dried	Controllo siero non specifico - Non assorbito	Controllo di colorazione non specifico - Assorbito		
Dissolvere 10 g di in 1 L di acqua purificata.	Usare 0,03 mL di FA Buffer non diluito come diluente (sopra) e come Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Non assorbito.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Non assorbito su uno striscio FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	N - Non reattivo
FTA Sorbent	Controllo di colorazione non specifico - Assorbito	FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)		
Reidratare con 5 mL di acqua purificata.	Usare 0,03 mL di FTA Sorbent non diluito come diluente (sopra) e come Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Assorbito.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di Controllo di colorazione non specifico – Assorbito su uno striscio di FTA Antigen. Incubare lo striscio. Risciacquare.	Dispensare 0,03 mL di coniugato sullo striscio. Incubare, risciacquare e allestire il vetrino. Esaminare al microscopio.	N - Non reattivo
	Diluire al titolo indicato in etichetta con Tween al 2%. Usare come "coniugato".	Tween 80		
		Riscaldare Tween 80 e FA Buffer a 56 °C.		
		Dispensare 2 mL di Tween 80 in 98 mL di FA Buffer. Correggere il pH a 7,2. Usare come "Tween al 2%".		

6. Il test FTA-ABS può essere reattivo in soggetti provenienti da aree in cui la framboesia - o mal del pinto - è stata o è endemica.

PRESTAZIONI METODOLOGICHE¹⁶

Le prestazioni del test FTA-ABS sono state comparate a un test ELISA, al test su vetrino VDRL e al test MHA-TP, in uno studio condotto da Pope, Hunter e Feeley¹⁶ ai Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia (USA). Duecentonovantasette (297) sieri sono stati testati mediante ELISA, test su vetrino VDRL, test FTA-ABS e test di microemo-agglutinazione per gli anticorpi anti *Treponema pallidum* (MHA-TP). La Tabella 1 seguente presenta una comparazione della reattività del test per categoria di malattia, riferita al test di 75 sieri di soggetti affetti da sifilide e 222 sieri di soggetti non affetti da sifilide.¹⁶

Tabella 1

Categoria	N. testato	N. con reattività a:			
		FTA-ABS	ELISA	MHA-TP	VDRL
Sifilide primaria					
Non trattata	22	22	17	9	17
Trattata	2	2	1	2	1
Sifilide secondaria					
Non trattata	8	8	8	6	8
Trattata	12	12	12	12	12
Sifilide latente					
Non trattata	13	13	12	12	10
Trattata	10	10	10	9	9
Trattamento sconosciuto	1	1	1	1	1
Latente dubbia	3	3	3	3	0
Neurosifilide	3	3	2	2	0
Sifilide cardiovascolare	1	1	1	1	0
Non sifilide					
Presunta normale	178	1	1	1	0
Falsamente positiva biologica	15	1	0	0	7
Malattie diverse da sifilide	29	1	1	0	1

La Tabella 2 seguente elenca le sensibilità e specificità per ciascuna metodica pubblicata in questo studio.¹⁶

Tabella 2

Test	Sensibilità	Specificità
FTA-ABS	100%	97,8%
ELISA	89,3%	98,5%
MHA-TP	76%	98,2%
VDRL	93,3%	92,7%

DISPONIBILITÀ

N. di cat. Descrizione

223441	Difco FTA Antigen, 1 mL
224401	Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive, 5 mL
224391	Difco FTA Serum Reactive, 5 mL
232591	Difco FTA Sorbent, 5 mL
232592	Difco FTA Sorbent, 6 x 5 mL
232661	Difco FTA Sorbent Control, 6 x 0,5 mL
223143	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 6 x 10 g
223142	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 100 g
224491	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 1 mL
224492	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 5 mL
223291	Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7,2, 6 x 5 mL
231181	Difco Tween 80, 100 g

BIBLIOGRAFIA: Vedere "References" nel testo inglese.

Suero analizado	Fluorescencia prevista	Interpretación
Suero de control reactivo – Sin absorber	4+	Reactivo
Suero de control reactivo – Absorbido	3+ a 4+	Reactivo
Suero de control mínimamente reactivo	1+	Reactivo
Suero de control no reactivo	N	No Reactivo
Control de suero no específico – Sin absorber	2+ a 4+	Reactivo
Control de suero no específico – Absorbido	N a ±	No Reactivo
Control de tinción no específico – Sin absorber	N	No Reactivo
Control de tinción no específico – Absorber	N	No Reactivo

El control de calidad debe llevarse a cabo conforme a la normativa local y/o nacional aplicable, a los requisitos de los organismos de acreditación y a los procedimientos estándar de control de calidad del laboratorio. Se recomienda consultar las instrucciones de NCCLS y normativas de CLIA correspondientes para obtener información acerca de las prácticas adecuadas de control de calidad.

RESULTADOS

Con el control de suero 1+ como norma de lectura, registrar la intensidad de fluorescencia de las treponemas e informar de la manera siguiente. Repetir la prueba de todas las muestras con una fluorescencia de prueba inicial de 1+.

Intensidad de la fluorescencia	Prueba inicial	Repetir prueba	Informe
De moderada a fuerte	2+ a 4+	NC	Reactivo
	1+	>1+	Reactivo
Equivalente al control 1+	1+	1+	Minimamente reactivo*
	1+	<1+	No Reactivo
Tinción visible pero <1+	± a <1+	NC	No Reactivo
Ninguna o muy poco visible, no definida	–	NC	No Reactivo
Con aspecto "apolillado" o de "cuentas"			Atípica ¹

*Resultado dudoso.

¹ Se ha descrito la forma atípica o de cuentas de la fluorescencia en pacientes con lupus u otras enfermedades autoinmunes¹¹.

Las muestras con una lectura inicial de 1+ y una lectura de 1+ o más al repetirse la prueba se informan como reactivas. Los demás resultados se informan como no reactivos.

No es necesario repetir la prueba de las muestras no reactivas.

Sin evidencia clínica o de historial de infección treponémica, los resultados de prueba dudosos (véase la tabla) sugieren la necesidad de analizar una segunda muestra obtenida entre 1 y 2 semanas después de la muestra inicial.

LIMITACIONES DEL PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Cuando se presenta una discrepancia entre los resultados de la prueba treponémica y la opinión clínica, repetir la prueba treponémica y obtener información clínica y de historial adicional. Si persiste la discrepancia, enviar la muestra a un laboratorio de referencia, tal como la autoridad local de salud pública, para realizar pruebas de confirmación adicionales. El diagnóstico final depende de la opinión clínica de un especialista con mucha experiencia en enfermedades de transmisión sexual^{2,3}.
2. La prueba no debe utilizarse para realizar un seguimiento de la respuesta al tratamiento ni se puede confiar en la misma para detectar casos nuevos no tratados en investigaciones epidemiológicas.
3. La fluorescencia "atípica" y los resultados positivos falsos se han asociado con pacientes con variedades activas sistémicas, discoides e inducidas farmacológicamente de lupus eritematoso¹²⁻¹⁵ y otras enfermedades autoinmunes.

Procedimiento de análisis de FTA-ABS

Esquema abreviado

Paso 1.	Paso 2.	Paso 3.	Paso 4.	Paso 5.
Preparar los sueros y los reactivos.	Diluir los sueros.	Añadir suero de prueba/control a los frotis de FTA Antigen correspondientes.	Añadir conjugado a los frotis de FTA Antigen.	Registrar las reacciones de los sueros de prueba y de control. Verificar que los sueros de control suministraron los resultados previstos.

FTA Antigen	Frotis de FTA Antigen
Rehidratar con 1 mL de agua purificada. Preparar los frotis. Fijar con acetona. Utilizar como "frotis de FTA Antigen".	Descongelar, secar e identificar los frotis de FTA Antigen suficientes para lograr correspondencia con cada uno de los sueros de prueba y de control que se analicen.

	Suero de prueba (paciente)	Suero de control reactivo (4+) – Sin absorber	Suero de control reactivo (4+) – Absorbido	Suero de control mínimamente reactivo (1+)	Suero de control no reactivo
FTA Serum Reactive	Calentar a 56 °C durante 30 min o recalentar el suero anteriormente calentado durante 10 min.	Realizar una dilución de 1:5 añadiendo 0,05 mL de suero a 0,2 mL de FTA Sorbent.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de suero de prueba a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Suero de control reactivo – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Suero de control reactivo – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.
					Según el estado de los anticuerpos o el suero de prueba.
					4+ reactivo
					3+ a 4+ reactivo
					1+ reactivo
FTA Serum Non-Reactive	Rehidratar con 5 mL de agua purificada. Calentar a 56 °C durante 30 min.	Realizar una dilución de 1:40 añadiendo 0,05 mL de FTA Serum Non-Reactive a 1,95 mL de FA Buffer.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de suero de control no reactivo a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de suero de control no reactivo a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de suero de control no reactivo a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.
					N - No reactivo
FTA Sorbent Control	Rehidratar con 0,5 mL de agua purificada. Calentar a 56 °C durante 30 min.	Realizar una dilución de 1:5 añadiendo 0,05 mL de FTA Sorbent Control a 0,2 mL de FA Sorbent.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de suero no específico – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de suero no específico – Absorbido a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de suero no específico – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.
					2+ a 4+ reactivo
					N a ± no reactivo
FA Buffer, Dried	Disolver 10 g en 1 L de agua purificada.	Utilizar 0,03 mL de FA Buffer sin diluir como diluyente (anterior) y como el Control de tinción no específico – Sin absorber.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Sin absorber a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.
					N – No reactivo
FTA Sorbent	Rehidratar con 5 mL de agua purificada.	Utilizar 0,03 mL de FTA Sorbent sin diluir como el diluyente (anterior) y como el Control de tinción no específico – Absorbido.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Absorbido a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar el frotis. Enjuagar.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Absorbido a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.	Aplicar 0,03 mL de Control de tinción no específico – Absorbido a un frotis de FTA Antigen. Incubar, enjuagar y preparar en portaobjetos. Examinar al microscopio.
					N – No reactivo
FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit)	Rehidratar con 1 mL o 5 mL de agua purificada. Determinar la valoración si se trata de un lote nuevo.	Diluir a la valoración indicada en la etiqueta con Tween al 2%. Utilizar como "Conjugado".			
Tween 80	Calentar Tween 80 y FA Buffer a 56 °C. Añadir 2 mL de Tween 80 a 98 mL de FA Buffer. Ajustar a un pH de 7,2. Utilizar como "Tween al 2%".				

4. Los pacientes ancianos pueden presentar reacciones a FTA-ABS inexplicables.
5. De vez en cuando puede ser difícil decidir si una lectura es débil o muy poco visible. La capacidad de realizar esta distinción es clave, ya que no se repite la prueba de un suero no reactivo (muy poco o no visible).
6. La prueba FTA-ABS puede ser reactiva en personas de regiones en las que yaws o pinta son endémicas.

CARACTERÍSTICAS DE RENDIMIENTO¹⁶

Se comparó el rendimiento de la prueba FTA-ABS con la de la prueba ELISA, la prueba VDRL en portaobjetos y la prueba MHA-TP en un estudio realizado por Pope, Hunter y Feeley¹⁶ en los Centers for Disease Control en Atlanta, Georgia, EE.UU. Se analizaron 297 sueros mediante un análisis de inmunoabsorción ligado a enzimas (ELISA), una prueba VDRL en portaobjetos, una prueba FTA-ABS y el análisis de microhemaglutinación para anticuerpos de *T. pallidum* (MHA-TP). La tabla 1 siguiente muestra una comparación de reactividad analítica por categorías de enfermedad al analizar 75 sueros de personas con sífilis y 222 sueros de personas sin sífilis¹⁶.

Tabla 1

Categoría	Cant. con reactividad a:			
	Cant. Analizada	FTA-ABS	ELISA	MHA-TP VDRL
Sífilis primaria				
Sin tratar	22	22	17	9 17
Tratada	2	2	1	2 1
Sífilis secundaria				
Sin tratar	8	8	8	6 8
Tratada	12	12	12	12 12
Sífilis latente				
Sin tratar	13	13	12	12 10
Tratada	10	10	10	9 9
Tratamiento desconocido	1	1	1	1 1
Latente dudoso	3	3	3	3 0
Neurosífilis	3	3	2	2 0
Sífilis cardiovascular	1	1	1	1 0
Ausencia de sífilis				
Supuestamente normal	178	1	1	1 0
Positivo falso biológico	15	1	0	0 7
Enfermedades distintas de sífilis	29	1	1	0 1

La tabla 2 siguiente enumera los niveles de sensibilidad y especificidad de cada método publicado en este estudio¹⁶.

Tabla 2

Prueba	Sensibilidad	Especificidad
FTA-ABS	100%	97,8%
ELISA	89,3%	98,5%
MHA-TP	76%	98,2%
VDRL	93,3%	92,7%

DISPONIBILIDAD

Nº de cat. Descripción

223441	Difco FTA Antigen, 1 mL
224401	Difco FTA Serum Non-Reactive, 5 mL
224391	Difco FTA Serum Reactive, 5 mL
232591	Difco FTA Sorbent, 5 mL
232592	Difco FTA Sorbent, 6 x 5 mL
232661	Difco FTA Sorbent Control, 6 x 0.5 mL
223143	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 6 x 10 g
223142	Difco FA Buffer, Dried, 100 g
224491	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 1 mL
224492	Difco FA Human Globulin Antiglobulin (Rabbit), 5 mL
223291	Difco FA Mounting Fluid pH 7,2, 6 x 5 mL
231181	Difco Tween 80, 100 g

REFERENCIAS: Ver "Referencias" en el texto en inglés.



Manufacturer / Producent / Fabrikant / Valmistaja / Fabricant / Hersteller / Κατασκευαστής / Ditta produttrice / Fabrikant / Fabricante / Tillverkare



Use by / Anvendes før / Houdbaar tot / Viimeikäyttöpäivä / A utiliser avant / Verwendbar bis / Ημερομηνία λήξης / Usare entro / Brukes før / Utilizar em / Usar antes de / Använd före / YYYY-MM-DD / YYYY-MM (MM = end of month) / AAAA-MM-DD / AAAA-MM (MM = slutning af måned) / JJJJ-MM-DD / JJJJ-MM (MM = einde maand) / VVVV-KK-PP / VVVV-KK (kuukauden loppuun mennessä) / AAAA-MM-JJ / AAAA-MM (MM = fin du mois) / JJJJ-MM-TT / JJJJ-MM (MM = Monatsende) / EEEE-MM-HH / EEEE-MM (MM = τέλος του μήνα) / AAAA-MM-GG / AAAA-MM (MM = fine mese) / AAAA-MM-DD / AAAA-MM (MM = slutten av måneden) / AAAA-MM-DD / AAAA-MM (MM = fim do mês) / aaaa-mm-dd / aaaa-mm (mm = fin del mes) / AAAA-MM-DD / AAAA-MM (MM = slutet på månaden)



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Temperature limitation / Temperaturbegrænsning / Temperatuurlimiet / Lämpötilarajoitus / Température limite / Zulässiger Temperaturbereich / Όριο θερμοκρασίας / Temperatura limite / Temperaturbegrensning / Limitação da temperatura / Limitación de temperatura / Temperaturbegränsning



Batch Code (Lot) / Batch kode (Lot) / Chargennummer (lot) / Eräkoodi (LOT) / Code de lot (Lot) / Chargencode (Chargenbezeichnung) / Κωδικός παρτίδας (Παρτίδα) / Codice del lotto (partita) / Batch-kode (Serie) / Código do lote (Lote) / Código de lote (Lote) / Satskod (parti)





Consult Instructions for Use / Læs brugsanvisningen / Raadpleeg gebruiksaanwijzing / Tarkista käyttöohjeista / Consulter la notice d'emploi / Gebrauchsanweisung beachten / Συμβουλευτείτε τις οδηγίες χρήσης / Consultare le istruzioni per l'uso / Se i brugsanvisningen / Consulte as instruções de utilização / Consultar las instrucciones de uso / Se brugsanvisningen



Keep away from light / Må ikke udsættes for lys / Weghoudvan licht / Suojattava valoita / Conserver à l'abri de la lumière / Vor Licht schützen / Φυλάξτε το μακριά από το φως / Tener al riparo dalla luce / Må ikke utsettes for lys / Manter ao abrigo da luz / Mantener alejado de la luz / Får ej utsättas för ljus



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