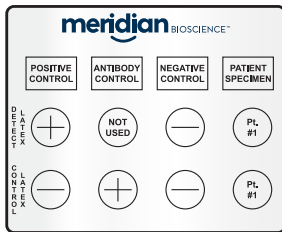# Cryptococcal Antigen Latex Agglutination System (CALAS®)

Specimen Preparation CSF

1. Centrifuge specimen at 1000xg for 15 minutes.
2. Aspirate the spinal fluid into a sterile container and seal.
3. Inactivate the CSF by placing it in a boiling water bath for 5 minutes.
4. Allow to cool 3 to 4 minutes before testing.

Serum

1. Centrifuge clotted blood at 1000xg for 15 minutes.
2. Aspirate the serum into a sterile container and seal.
3. Add 200 µL of serum specimen to 200 µL of the pronase solution (see Package Insert for Reagent Preparation) in a sealed container.
4. Incubate serum/pronase solution at 56 C for 15 minutes.
5. Immediately place the solution in a boiling water bath for 5 FULL minutes. If the serum coagulates see Pronase Activity Control section in Package Insert.
6. Allow to cool 3 to 4 minutes before testing.

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POSITIVE CONTROL	ANTIBODY CONTROL	NEGATIVE CONTROL	PATIENT SPECIMEN

DETECT LATEX: (+)   NOT USED   (−)   PT. #1

CONTROL LATEX: (−)   (+)   (−)   PT. #1

Note: This chart does not contain complete instructions for the use of the CALAS® kit. For further information, please read thoroughly the accompanying Package Insert.

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3471 River Hills Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244
Telephone: 513.271.3700
Customer Service: 1.800.543.1980
Technical Support: 1.800.343.3858
meridianbioscience.com

Procedure

1. Label the Disposable Reaction Card according to the figure.
2. Add one drop of Positive Control to each of the two designated rings.
3. Add 25 µL of the Antibody Control and Negative Control to each of the appropriate rings.
4. Add 25 µL of the patient specimen to each of the two designated rings.
5. Add one drop of Detection Latex to each of the designated rings.
6. Add one drop of Control Latex to each of the designated rings.
7. Mix each well using a separate applicator stick for each ring.
8. Rock the slide by hand or using a rotator at 125 ± 25 rpm for 5 minutes.
9. Read the agglutination immediately and grade the strength of the reaction from negative to 4+. (For comparison, refer to the Reaction Reference Photograph.)
10. Patient specimens that have a 2+ or greater reaction with either the Detection Latex or Control Latex should be titrated with both reagents (see Package Insert: Titration).