**TEST** | Rheumatoid Factor  
---|---  
**SYNONYM/S** | RF  
**LAB SECTION** | Immunology /Serology  
**AVAILABILITY** | Daily (24 hours)  
**TURN AROUND TIME (TAT)** (upon receipt of the laboratory) | STAT : within 2 hours  
| Routine : within 4 hours  
**PATIENT PREPARATION** | No special patient preparation necessary.  
**SPECIMEN** | Serum  
**VOLUME OF SPECIMEN** | 5 ml whole blood (In-house)/or 1 ml serum  
**CONTAINER** | Red top tube (no anticoagulant)  
**CAUSES OF REJECTION** | Specimen is hemolyzed, lipemic or turbid. Specimen quantity is not sufficient for analysis. Specimen with obvious microbial contamination.  
**TRANSPORT** | Maintain transport temperature at 18-28 °C. Transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.  
**SPECIMEN STABILITY AND STORAGE** | 2 days at refrigerated temperature (2°C to 8°C)  
**LIMITATIONS** | Since increased levels of rheumatoid factor may accompany certain acute immune responses such as infectious mononucleosis, certain disease such as sarcoidosis, systemic lupus erythematosus and Sjogren’s syndrome and may also be found in a considerable percentage of elderly individuals, the interpretation of the clinical significance of a positive test result must be made with caution. Although the higher titers do not show interpretation problems, the lower titers can be found both in first phrases of rheumatoid arthritis and in the cases mentioned before. Less commonly, a positive test may result in situations where chronic inflammatory disease is suspected, such as bacterial endocarditis, tuberculosis, leprosy, etc. Certain patients with rheumatoid arthritis may show negative result for rheumatoid factor.  
**METHODOLOGY** | Latex Agglutination