

HEPATITIS C VIRAL (HCV RNA), QUANTITATIVE REAL TIME PCR

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(Real Time PCR – Taqman technology)

IU/mL

Interpretation

RESULT in IU/mL	COMMENTS
Target not detected	Sample provided does not contain HCV RNA
<12	HCV RNA detected
≥ 12 to 1×10^8	HCV RNA detected within the linear range of the assay.
$> 1 \times 10^8$	HCV RNA detected above the linear range of the assay

Note:

1. Linear reporting range of the assay is 12 - 1×10^8 IU/mL
2. Test conducted on Serum / Plasma
3. This test is not intended for use in the initial diagnosis or confirmation of HCV infection
4. HCV genotyping is recommended in positive cases for selection of therapy

Comments

HCV is an RNA virus of the Flavivirus group transmitted in 60% of the cases due to drug abuse. Other modes of transmission seen are following accidental needle punctures in health care workers, dialysis patients and rarely from mother to infant. Sexual transmission accounts for 10% of cases. Chronic infection with HCV occurs in about 85% of infected individuals leading to fibrosis of the liver and Cirrhosis in about 20% of these patients. Risk for Hepatocellular carcinoma in a patient with chronic HCV is 1-5% after 20 years.

Uses

This test is used in conjunction with clinical presentation and other laboratory markers to determine infectivity; predict & monitor response to interferon therapy in chronic Hepatitis C patients.