HEPATITIS C VIRAL (HCV RNA), GENOTYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEPATITIS C VIRAL (HCV RNA), GENOTYPE (Real Time PCR)</th>
<th>Genotype</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Note:**

1. Limit of detection for all genotypes is a viral load of 500 IU/mL. No genotype detected if the viral load is below the limit of detection
2. Indeterminate result indicates inability to classify the sample provided due to presence of inhibitors. Repeat sample is recommended
3. This test does not detect Genotypes 5 & 6

**Interpretation**

HCV Real Time PCR genotyping test determines the Genotypes 1, 2, 3 & 4 in positive cases. HCV genotype 1 is more difficult to treat than Genotypes 2 & 3 and causes more severe liver disease. This test should not be used for screening of blood or blood products or as a diagnostic test to confirm the presence of HCV infection.

**Comments**

HCV is an RNA virus of the Flavivirus group transmitted in 60% of the cases due to drug abuse. Other modes of transmission are seen 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 useful in predicting the prognosis in patients with chronic Hepatitis C infection and to determine the course of therapy.