

Bulletin

Technical

HSV & VZV

With the initiation of the smallpox vaccination program and the potential world-wide risk of smallpox bio-terrorism, every effort must be made to ensure the safety of the laboratory and all health care workers. Thus, effective immediately, **ALL ORDERS FOR SKIN HSV OR VZV TESTING MUST BE SENT WITH A DESIGNATION AS TO THE RISK OF SMALLPOX** as outlined by the CDC below.

HIGH RISK FOR SMALLPOX---REPORT IMMEDIATELY

(See criteria explanation below)

- Febrile prodrome AND
- Classic smallpox lesions AND
- Lesions in same stage of development

MODERATE RISK FOR SMALLPOX---URGENT EVALUATION

(See criteria explanation below)

- Febrile prodrome AND
- One MAJOR smallpox criteria
OR
- Febrile prodrome AND
- > 4 minor smallpox criteria

LOW RISK FOR SMALLPOX

(See criteria explanation below)

- No Viral prodrome OR
- Febrile prodrome and < 4 minor smallpox criteria

Major Smallpox Criteria

- Febrile prodrome occurs 1 – 4 days before rash onset, fever > 102°F, and at least one of the following: prostration, headache, backache, chills, vomiting or severe abdominal pain. All smallpox patients have a febrile prodrome. The fever may drop with rash onset.
- The classic smallpox lesions are deep, firm/hard, round, well circumscribed, may be umbilicated or confluent.
- The lesions are all in the same stage of development.

Minor Smallpox Criteria

- Centrifugal distribution has the greatest concentration of lesions on the face and distal extremities.
- First lesions are on the oral mucosa/palate, face and/or forearms.
- Patients appear toxic or moribund.
- Slow evolution, lesions evolve from macules to papules to pustules over days
- There are lesions on the palms and soles in majority of cases.

The CDC has posters available with detailed information to evaluate the patient. The posters can be ordered at no cost at www.cdc.gov/nip/resources/publications.

The Pathology Center will perform direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) and viral culture for diagnosis of HSV1, HSV2, and VZV on **ALL SKIN SPECIMENS**. Please designate on the requisition the risk when ordering a HSV or VZV of the skin.