CA 15-3
Effective September 23, 2014, the clinical laboratory will switch testing methodologies for the breast cancer tumor marker. We will begin testing for the CA15-3 antigen instead of the CA27.29 antigen. The CA15-3 testing will be performed on the Abbott ARCHITECT i1000 using a Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay (CMIA).

Patient comparison studies were performed between the Abbott ARCHITECT CA 15-3 assay and the Centaur CA27.29 assay. The two methods measure different epitopes on the glycoprotein coded by the MUC1 gene; we found an 83% correlation coefficient between the two tests. Patient results between the two tests are expected to be somewhat different.

For this reason, once we begin patient testing using the Architect CA15-3 assay, we will baseline patient samples that were previously run with the Centaur CA27.29 assay. A comment attached to the ARCHITECT CA15-3 result will include the Centaur CA27.29 result run on the same sample. We will baseline for 3 months. Since sample volume must be sufficient for both tests, we will require 0.5 mL for the baselining.

Sample Requirements

Collect: SST (gold top) or plain red top serum, 4 mL.

Patient Preparation: none

Storage/Transport: Deliver at room temperature to the laboratory for processing. If sample cannot be delivered to the laboratory within 8 hours of collection, centrifuge sample and transport separated serum refrigerated at 2-8°C.

Stability: Separated serum can be refrigerated at 2-8°C for up to 7 days, or frozen at -20°C for longer storage.

Minimum volume: 0.5 mL serum; (absolute minimum – only pipetable once – 0.2 mL serum)

Unacceptable Conditions: Samples other than serum or samples not held at correct temperature.

Reference Interval: < 31.3 U/mL

Routine Testing: Thurs dayshift, in Special Chemistry at the STC location

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Laboratory Client Services at 734-7373.

LIS mnemonic: CA153