INTERPRETATION OF SYPHILIS SEROLOGY: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

http://thischangedmypractice.com/interpretation-of-syphilis-serology/

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Syphilis test characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test type</th>
<th>Treponemal</th>
<th>Non-treponemal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examples</td>
<td>EIA, TP-PA</td>
<td>RPR, VDRL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detects</td>
<td>Syphilis-specific antibodies</td>
<td>Antibodies to cellular components released due to syphilis infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reported as</td>
<td>Reactive or nonreactive</td>
<td>Quantitative titre (1:2, 1:4, etc.) with higher titres indicating stronger positive results</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change over time</td>
<td>Remain positive over time in most cases</td>
<td>Decline over time (decline faster with treatment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uses</td>
<td>- New diagnosis of syphilis - Sensitive screening test</td>
<td>- Monitoring response to treatment - Distinguishing re-infection vs. resolved infection in individuals with positive treponemal test</td>
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Syphilis serology interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serologic pattern</th>
<th>Possible interpretations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reactive</td>
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<td>Non-reactive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-reactive</td>
<td>- Not consistent with syphilis; if concern for primary syphilis (chancre), should treat and repeat testing in 2 weeks</td>
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</tbody>
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