VACCINIA

Protocol Overview and Methods: Vaccinia virus is a “pox”-type virus related to smallpox. It is used to induce immunity against smallpox. The smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia virus; therefore, proper care of the smallpox vaccination site is essential. Autoinoculation and person-to-person transmission can occur until the scab at the vaccination site falls off.

DPHL can test for Vaccinia viruses in specimens from patients via qPCR at low and moderate risk categories according to evaluation criteria in the CDC rash illness protocol. Any positive qPCR results for Vaccinia are considered preliminary positive and must be sent to CDC for confirmation.

- Herpes Simplex Virus identification/rule-out testing is performed via direct fluorescence antibody (DFA) and cell culture only.

- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from Vaccinia are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. Specimens from patients in the high-risk category for possible smallpox will not be tested at DPHL.

Contact Information: DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For More Information: 24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
http://www.cdc.gov/az/