HIV-Viral Load-PCR (HIVVL)

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TEST OVERVIEW

Test Name	HIV-Viral Load-PCR
Test Code	HIVVL
Short Description	HIV-Viral Load-PCR

OVERVIEW

Test Name	HIV-Viral Load-PCR
Test Code	HIVVL
Category	Molecular biology
TAT	Main Lab: 60, 6 Hour(s) Family Site: 3 Day(s), <12hrs
Specimen(s)	1 x Venous blood - 5 mL Tube - Lavender - EDTA Plasma

SPECIMEN(S)

EDTA Plasma

Specimen Type	EDTA Plasma
Specimen Format	Tube
Specimen Colour	Lavender
Specimen Volume	5 mL
Sampling Order	4
Origin	Venous blood
Collection time after baseline	-
Transport Temperature	15-25°C
Accepted Other Specimens	Plasma ACD
TAT	Main Lab: 60, 6 Hour(s)

	Family Site: 3 Day(s), <12hrs
Test Stability	Room Temp: 24 Hour(s) 2–8°C: 72 Hour(s)

CLINICAL INFORMATION

HIV-1 RNA

Methodology	RNA reverse transcription and Real Time PCR
Specimen Type	EDTA Plasma
Delay before pre-treatment	24
Transport Temperature	15-25°C
Transport Stability at room temp	24 Hours
Transport Stability at 2–8°C	72 Hours
Haemolysis interference	No

HIV RNA

Methodology	Calculation
Specimen Type	EDTA Plasma
Delay before pre-treatment	24
Transport Temperature	15-25°C
Transport Stability at room temp	24 Hours
Transport Stability at 2–8°C	72 Hours
Haemolysis interference	No

Clinical Interest

The **HIV PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) assay** is a vital tool in the clinical management of HIV infection. This assay detects and quantifies the genetic material (RNA or DNA) of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), providing valuable information for diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of HIV-infected individuals.

PCR can detect HIV RNA before antibodies are present, enabling early diagnosis during the acute phase of infection. Early detection is critical for timely intervention and reducing transmission. CR is particularly useful during the window period when antibodies are not yet detectable by standard serological tests.

Measuring HIV viral load helps in understanding the severity of the infection and the rate of disease progression. Higher viral loads are often associated with faster progression to AIDS. Regular viral load testing is essential for assessing the effectiveness of **antiretroviral therapy (ART).** Successful ART should lead to a significant reduction or suppression of viral load to undetectable levels.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Clinical Information Required	-
Patient Collection Notes	-

COMMENTS & NOTES

LOINC Code	469-2, 62469-2, 86548-5, 86548-5
Outwork	No