

Virology

HIV-1 VIRAL LOAD

Description

Viral load is used as a marker of disease progression, indicating how much virus is available to damage the immune system. If HIV is untreated, viral load steadily increases. A rise in viral load is often followed by a decrease in CD4 count, whilst CD4 counts usually increase as viral load falls. Viral load is an indicator of how well anti-HIV treatments are working. Viral load tests are also conducted to determine HIV infection prior to the emergence of antibodies to HIV.

Technology

The HIV viral load test is carried out on plasma using the fully automated Roche COBAS Ampliprep™/COBAS Taqman™ instrument and reagents. The HIV RNA genome present in the plasma sample is isolated on the instrument and then quantified by a 'real-time' reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay. This provides a measure of copies of the virus present in the sample.

Laboratory

Delphic Laboratories (Kent) Ltd
1030 Heeley Close
Kent Science Park
Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8HL
UK

Certification:
BS EN ISO 9001:2000
(Certificate No. FS 56079)
CLIA ID 99D 1060454

Service

Turnaround time: 5 days*

* Working days

Downloads

The following documents can be downloaded from the Delphic website:

Account Set Up Form
Sample Handling Instructions
Test Request Form
Report
Frequently Asked Questions

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