



PAML Introduces Improved Testing for Cancer Antigen 27.29

THE PAML R&D DEPARTMENT has completed validation on a new analysis method for the tumor marker CA 27.29. The improved assay uses an automated chemiluminescence system that replaces a manual radioimmunoassay procedure.

As a part of the validation protocol, results from the chemiluminescence method were compared statistically with paired-sample results from the old procedure. The results of the comparison studies show that the two methods give nearly identical results. The correlation coefficient was 0.99, and the overall bias between the two methods was -1.9 U/mL. Although the overall correlation was excellent, individual patients can show different results from one method to another due to differences in antibody specificity. PAML recommends that all patients who are being followed serially with CA 27.29 results should be re-baselined with the new method. Upon request, PAML will re-baseline patients at no charge for 3 months beginning on October 23, 2000. After the 3-month transition period, only the new method will be offered.

The CA 27.29 test is intended for use as an aid in monitoring patients previously treated for Stage II or Stage III breast cancer. Serial testing for CA 27.29 in the serum of patients who are clinically free of disease should be used in conjunction with other clinical methods for the early detection of cancer recurrence. The test is also intended for use as an aid in the management of breast cancer patients with metastatic disease by monitoring the progression of disease in response to treatment.

Test Information

DESCRIPTION	CA27.29
METHOD	Chemiluminescence
ORDER CODES	SQ C2729 GA CA2729
CPT CODE	86316
SPECIMEN	1 mL frozen serum (red-top tube). Separate serum from cells and put in separate plastic tube. Store and transport frozen.
COMMENTS	<i>Minimum amount:</i> 0.5 mL. <i>Stability:</i> 8 hours at room temperature, 2 days refrigerated.
SCHEDULE	Monday – Friday nights
TURNAROUND	1 - 3 days
RANGES	Normal: 0 - 40 U/mL

Features

- ▶ **More accurate and consistent results**
- ▶ **Re-baselining at no charge for 6 months**

Usage Recommendations

- ▶ **Monitoring of patients previously treated for Stage II or Stage III breast cancer**
- ▶ **Management of breast cancer patients with metastatic disease**

For more information, please contact Client Services.

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