

Laboratory Update

Syphilis Serologic Testing

Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR), Monitoring [LAB11191]

- **Test type:** Qualitative and semi-quantitative **nontreponemal** assay.
- **Detects:** Reagin (anti-nontreponemal) antibodies produced in response to *Treponema pallidum* infection.
- **Specimen:** Serum or plasma.
- **Clinical use:**
Monitoring disease activity and response to therapy via RPR titers.
Not diagnostic alone; used following a positive treponemal test.
Recommended for:
Patients <19 months of age, or
Patients ≥19 months with a **prior positive treponemal test** to monitor treatment.
Key note: Titers correlate with disease activity and are followed over time.

Treponema pallidum Antibody with Reflex to RPR and TP-PA [LAB8554]

- **Test type:** Qualitative **treponemal** antibody assay.
- **Detects:** Antibodies specific to *Treponema pallidum*.
- **Specimen:** Serum or plasma.
- **Clinical use:**
Aid in diagnosis of syphilis.
Typically remains positive for life; **not useful for treatment monitoring**.
Recommended for:
Patients ≥19 months of age.

Guidelines

- CDC Syphilis Treatment Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis.htm>

- CDC Congenital Syphilis Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/congenital-syphilis.htm>