



Test Catalog

Diagnostic. Prognostic. Predictive. Predisposition.



Melanoma Micromets

Alternative Name

Melanoma micrometastases

Methodology

Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

Test Description

Melanoma micrometastases (micromets) consist of small groups of melanoma cancer cells, originating from the original tumor site, that have spread through the lymphovascular system to another part of the body. The presence of metastasis in sentinel lymph nodes (SLN) may be the first indicator that cutaneous melanoma has spread to other sites in the body and helps to guide physicians in the diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy of their patients. In patients with clinical stage I/II melanoma, SLN status is the strongest predictor of survival.

Histologic evaluation of lymph nodes using a microscope is the most accurate way to assess for lymph node metastasis, since a significant number of patients have clinically negative lymph nodes. Histologic evaluation for melanoma involves sectioning of the tissue block at three different levels and staining each level with H&E and one of the levels with HMB45 and Melan A immunohistochemical (IHC) stains. HMB45 is a protein that facilitates maturation of stage I pre-melanosomes to stage II and is expressed in the majority of malignant melanomas as well as in tumors with melanocytic differentiation. Melan A is a lineage specific marker that recognizes a cytoplasmic protein involved in formation of stage II melanosomes and aids in diagnosis of metastatic melanoma. Malignant melanoma may be negative for at least one lineage-specific marker, so using a combination of markers, such as HMB45 and Melan A, is helpful for melanoma micromet detection. Correlation of the IHC and H&E slides is recommended and comparison with the cytomorphology of the primary tumor may be helpful in difficult cases.

Specimen Requirements

- A formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue block is the preferred specimen type
- Block identifiers should be clearly written and match exactly with the specimen ID and specimen labeling as noted on the requisition.

Storage & Transportation

Use cold pack for transport. Make sure cold pack is not in direct contact with specimen.

CPT Code(s)*

88342x1, or 88341x1

New York Approved

Yes

Level of Service

Stain Only

Turnaround Time

Tech Only (Stain Only): 24 hours

*The CPT codes provided with our test descriptions are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. Correct CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party.

Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payor being billed.

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Committed to research as the means to improve patient care, we provide Pharma Services for pharmaceutical companies, in vitro diagnostic manufacturers, and academic scientist-clinicians. We promote joint publications with our client physicians. NeoGenomics welcomes your inquiries for collaborations. Please contact us for more information.

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