

## HERPES BLOOD TESTS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

If there is a visible symptom present, a viral culture is recommended. However, if there are no visible symptoms, a type-specific blood test for herpes may be performed. The following chart outlines information on accurate, type-specific blood tests for herpes simplex antibodies that the Herpes Resource Center (HRC) recommends. The HRC does not recommend standard, widely available blood tests because they have been shown in research to be inaccurate and unreliable. The potential for false positives can cause unnecessary worry or concern for many people.

	biokitHSV-2 Rapid Test <sup>†</sup>	HerpeSelect®		CAPTIA™ HSV IgG Type Specific ELISA	Herpes Western Blot
		ELISA	Immunoblot		
<b>Supplier</b>	biokit USA (formerly Diagnology as POckit® test)	Focus Diagnostics, Inc. (formerly Focus Technologies)		Trinity Biotech USA	University of Washington
<b>FDA Approved</b>	Yes (August 1999)	Yes (February 2000)	Yes (April 2000)	Yes (July 2004)	N/A (considered research "gold standard")
<b>Antibodies Detected</b>	HSV-2 only	HSV-1 -or- HSV-2	HSV-1 -and- HSV-2	HSV-1 -or- HSV-2	HSV-1 -and/or- HSV-2
<b>Sensitivity</b> (no false negatives)	93-96% accurate*	96-100% accurate*	97-100% accurate*	90-100% accurate**	>99% accurate
<b>Specificity</b> (no false positives)	95-98% accurate*	97-100% accurate*	98% accurate*	90-99% accurate**	>99% accurate
<b>HRC Recommended Window Period</b>	12 to 16 weeks after exposure	12 to 16 weeks after exposure	12 to 16 weeks after exposure	12 to 16 weeks after exposure	12 to 16 weeks after exposure
<b>Collection Method</b>	Finger prick/blood	Blood draw (sent to local lab)	Blood draw (sent to local lab)	Blood draw (sent to local lab)	Blood draw (sent to Washington)
<b>Test Location</b>	In provider office	Various labs	Various labs	Various labs	University of Washington (Virology Dept.)
<b>Result Time</b>	Less than 10 min.	~1 to 2 weeks	~1 to 2 weeks	~1 to 2 weeks	~2 weeks
<b>Can Be Used During Pregnancy</b>	Not FDA approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Manufacturer's List Price Per Test</b> (does not include provider or lab fees)	\$20	~ \$4	~ \$19	~ \$4	~ \$104
<b>Phone Number</b>	Toll-free (800) 926-3353	Toll-free (800) 505-0536 (to find a specific lab)		Toll-free (800) 325-3424 (to find a specific lab)	(206) 598-6066
<b>Web site</b>	<a href="http://www.biokit.com">http://www.biokit.com</a>	<a href="http://www.herpesselect.com">http://www.herpesselect.com</a>		<a href="http://www.trinitybiotech.com">http://www.trinitybiotech.com</a>	<a href="http://depts.washington.edu/herpes/">http://depts.washington.edu/herpes/</a>

\* Source: Data adapted from Ashley RL, *Sorting out the new HSV type-specific tests. Sex Trans Infect.* 2001;77:232-237.

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\*\* Source Data adapted from Ashley, 2001 and FDA Summary of Safety and Effectiveness Information CAPTIA™ HSV-2 IgG Type Specific Test Kit, July 2004.

† Also available from Fisher HealthCare as Sure-Vue™ HSV-2 Rapid Test. For more information, call toll-free (800) 766-7000 or log on to [www.fisherhealthcare.com](http://www.fisherhealthcare.com).