

Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) Criteria

SCL Otago/Southland



Following submissions from specialist areas, and taking into account ESR testing policies at North Island DHBs, we have reviewed our criteria for ESR testing.

The ESR has significant limitations in terms of measurement accuracy. Clinical dependence on its result in isolation is **not** endorsed by the laboratory.

The ESR should **not** be used to screen for plasma cell dyscrasias; serum protein electrophoresis and/or serum free light chains are the tests of choice.

The ESR should **not** be used to screen for inflammatory/infective disorders; CRP is the test of choice.

Samples will only be accepted for testing where one of the following indications is documented on the request form (as in these cases, it may provide additional information):

- Temporal (giant cell) arteritis
- Polymyalgia rheumatica
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Connective tissue disorder
- Vasculitis
- Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
- Rheumatic fever
- Kawasaki disease
- Paediatric inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis; Crohn's disease)
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Suspected prosthetic joint infection
- Patients with known M. tuberculosis infection
- All rheumatology patients
- All orthopaedic patients
- Any request where the patient is prepared to pay (\$12.00, payable prior to testing)

For more details, please contact your local laboratory.

By authority of the Haematologists
Southern Community Laboratories
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