

Pathogenes Testing Options



The various tests we offer help you manage your case. Remember, there are no “EPM tests” because the disease *syndrome* is due to parasites and inflammation. The tests below are useful to narrow the cause of the signs to etiology. If you are unsure what to submit after reviewing the following chart call us, we are happy to suggest the best assay. The sample is held for 6 months and additional tests can be ordered.

TYPE OF TEST	WHAT WE MEASURE	WHEN TO USE THE TEST	HOW TO USE THE RESULT
SAG 1, 5, 6	Antibody to 3 <i>S. neurona</i> serotypes	1) Suspect EPM 2) 2-6 months after treatment	Antibody against <i>S. neurona</i> can suggest the signs are due to <i>S. neurona</i> infection. The time to seroconvert (turn negative) depends on the immune background of the animal.
CRP	C-reactive protein concentration	Detects inflammation due to infection	Monitor inflammation. The inciting cause must be remedied for the value to fall. An elevated value with chronic, relapsing disease is suggestive of polyneuritis equi.
LYME SCREEN	Antibody to <i>Borrelia</i>	To rule in or out Lyme in the cause of disease	A negative value rules out Lyme. A positive value at 20 does not rule Lyme out, but the cause less likely due to <i>Borrelia</i> . A positive value at 40 indicates Lyme should be on the differential. Call for advice on confirmatory testing.
MP2 MPP	Antibody to myelin protein	Chronic and unresponsive cases that show polyneuritis. Sidewinding older horses.	A positive MPP test indicates there is an autoimmune component to the disease.
Neospora	Antibody against <i>Neospora</i>	For suspected cases of active Neospora	Antibody against <i>Neospora</i> can suggest signs are due to neosporosis. A positive titer is > 4. In the US 25% of normal horses are seropositive.
S. FAYERI TOXIN	Antibody to <i>Sarcocystis</i> toxin	Rule in toxin associated with equine muscular sarcocystosis that can cause ataxia and gut inflammation	A positive test (titer > 4) indicates the horse has <i>S. fayeri</i> sarcocysts. Use this test when CRP remains high, with or without clinical signs, after treatment.
IFAT: S. NEURONA	Antibody to Sarcocystis	Antibody to <i>Sarcocystis</i> . IFAT tests are not specific for <i>S. neurona</i> .	This is a study specific test and is used to enroll all horses into our FDA studies. We suggest for clinical use the serotype specific test is more useful.
Vitamin E	Serum concentration of vitamin E	When equine degenerative myeloencephalopathy is suspected or the horse is receiving vitamin E supplement.	Results are reported in micrograms/ml of serum. A normal value is greater than 2 micrograms/ml.