

Francisella tularensis

General:

Francisella tularensis, a facultative intracellular gram-negative bacterium, is the agent of tularemia or rabbit fever. It is a facultative intracellular bacterium.

F. tularensis is capable of infecting a number of small mammals such as voles, rabbits, and muskrats, but also humans. However, no case of tularemia has been reported to be initiated by human-to-human transmission. Rather, tularemia is caused by contact with infected animals or vectors such as ticks, mosquitoes, and deer flies. The pathogen is able to survive outside of a mammalian host for weeks at a time and has been found in water, grass-land, and haystacks.

F. tularensis is a highly contagious agent. Infections can occur via several routes. The most common occurs via skin contact, yielding an ulceroglandular form of the disease. Inhalation of bacteria - particularly biovar tularen-sis, leads to the potentially lethal pneumonic tularemia. While the pulmo-nary and ulceroglandular forms of tularemia are more common, other routes of inoculation have been described and include oropharyngeal infection due to consumption of contaminated food and conjunctival infection due to ino-culation. **Serological diagnostics:** first detection of antibodies about 1-2 weeks after infection, the highest titers can be measured in the 4-5th week of the disease.

The following tests are available:

- **Francisella tularensis IgM antibodies**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: EIA

Units: U/ml

Ref.- range: <10.0

- **Francisella tularensis IgG antibodies**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: EIA

Units: U/ml

Ref.- range: <10.0

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit

<http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>