

Mitochondrial antibodies

General:

Anti-mitochondrial antibodies (AMA) are antibodies formed against mitochondria, primarily in cells of the liver. AMAs actually bind to protein antigens within the inner lining of the mitochondria. The presence of AMAs in the blood or serum is indicative of several autoimmune diseases such as primary biliary cirrhosis. It is present in about 95% of cases. Primary biliary cirrhosis is seen primarily in middle-aged women, and in those afflicted with other autoimmune diseases. PBC is an autoimmune disorder, a condition in which the immune system attacks the body's own cells, or in this case parts of the cells. It is postulated that xenobi-otically-induced and/or oxidative modification of mitochondrial autoantigens is a critical step leading to loss of tolerance causing AMAs. In acute liver failure AMAs are found against all major liver antigens.

A subtyping of the antimitochondrial antibodies (AMA) is recommended in cases of positive screening. The most important subtypes are AMA-M2, AMA-M4, AMA-M9.

The following tests are available:

- **AMA-M2**

Material: 1 ml serum

Stability: upto 14 days at 2 to 8°C

TAT: 3 days, FML

Method: dot blot IFT

- **AMA-IFT**

Material: IFT

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: blot

- **AMA-M9**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: blot

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>