**PURPOSE**

The Bartonella IgM and IgG Western Blots are designed to detect IgM and IgG antibodies to Bartonella species including Bartonella henselae, B. quintana, B. elizabethae and B. vinsonii antigens in serum of patient suspected of having Bartonella infection. For diagnostic purpose, the Bartonella Western Blot test results should be used in conjunction with clinical symptoms and other evidence available to the diagnosing physician.

**PRINCIPLE**

A blot (nitrocellulose membrane) prepared from cell lysates of 4 species of Bartonella, B. henselae, B. quintana, B. elizabethae and B. vinsonii is incubated with patient’s serum. Bartonella specific antibodies, if present in the patient’s serum, bind to the corresponding antigen(s) on the membrane. After washing off the unbound serum, the blot is incubated with goat anti-human IgG or goat anti-human IgM antibody conjugated with alkaline phosphatase. Bound antibodies react with BCIP/NBT, a chromogenic substrate. A dark purple colored precipitate develops on the antigen-antibody complexes.

**PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

Based on a study performed on 63 well-characterized clinical samples, 32 samples confirmed as being positive for antibodies to Bartonella and 31 samples negative for Bartonella and positive for antibodies to other tick-borne pathogens, the sensitivity of the Bartonella Western Blot test is 97% and the specificity is 100%.

**ADVANTAGES**

- Bartonella IgM/IgG Western blot test has very high sensitivity and specificity for detecting Bartonella specific antibodies in patient’s serum and speciating Bartonella positive samples to B. henselae, B. quintana, B. elizabethae and B. vinsonii. Thus it is a very useful diagnostic tool for Bartonella infection.

- The result can be reported in 5 business days unlike culture that can take months.

**INCLUDED ANTIGENS**

B. henselae, B. quintana, B. elizabethae and B. vinsonii.

**SAMPLE REQUIREMENT:** 1.0 ml serum

**TEST NUMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>351*</td>
<td>Bartonella IgM Western Blot</td>
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<tr>
<td>352*</td>
<td>Bartonella IgG Western Blot</td>
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</tbody>
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**CPT CODE:** 86611 x 8

*Tests/Panels not available for NY Residents