

Bordetella pertussis* and *parapertussis

CERNER ORDERABLE

BORDETELLA PCR QL PERTPCR 3145

CPT CODE

87801

CLINICAL UTILITY

The bacterium *Bordetella pertussis* is the causative agent of whooping cough, which is an infectious disease occurring worldwide with a high incidence among young, unvaccinated infants. *B. pertussis* is transmitted by respiratory droplets and causes disease only in humans. Related species which may also cause pertussis syndrome, are *B. parapertussis*, *B. holmesii*, and *B. bronchiseptica* (primarily infecting animals and less pathogenic in humans). The illness caused by *B. parapertussis* is usually milder than that caused by *B. pertussis*, although severe cases have been reported and simultaneous infections with *B. pertussis* and *B. parapertussis* have also been observed in clinical practice ¹.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative PCR

SPECIMENS

Nasopharyngeal swabs collected in Universal Transport Media

SPECIMEN STABILITY

Refrigerated

SHIPPING

Specimens should be shipped on ice packs.

CAUSES FOR REJECTION

Specimen mislabeled; Specimen >5 days old

ASSAY RESULTS

Qualitative results (Pertussis Detected/Not detected and Parapertussis Detected/Not detected).

TURNAROUND TIME

Monday-Friday, Average 24-48 hours

1. Reference information can be found in the Indiana University Health Molecular Assay Procedures.