

# FAST FACTS: MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS) TESTING

## Utility of Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Oligoclonal Bands and Immunoglobulin G (IgG) Index in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Intrathecal synthesis of immunoglobulins is a key feature of MS and is indicated by an elevated CSF IgG index and the finding of CSF-specific oligoclonal bands (limited classes of antibodies depicted as discrete bands on an agarose gel using isoelectric focusing).

Although not a requirement for the diagnosis of MS in patients with *classic* MS symptoms and brain MRI appearance, this test is useful in the following challenging scenarios:

- As a diagnostic criterion in patients presenting with a clinically isolated syndrome that meets radiologic criteria for dissemination in space but not time.
- As a prognostic marker in patients presenting with a clinically isolated syndrome whose MRI findings do not meet the McDonald criteria for dissemination in space.
- In presentations other than a typical clinically isolated syndrome, including a progressive course at onset.
- If clinical, imaging, or laboratory features are atypical of MS.
- In populations in which MS is less common, including children and older adults.
- To increase diagnostic confidence as oligoclonal bands are found in 95% of patients with clinically definite MS.

### TEST NAME:

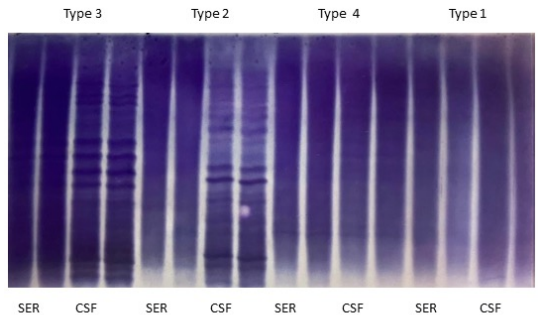
IgG Index/CSF Oligoclonal bands (Mnemonic: **IGGIND**)

### SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum volume 310 µl CSF,  
155 µl serum (0.3 ml blood)

### TURNAROUND TIME:

3 days



Oligoclonal banding patterns:  
Types 2 & 3 indicate intrathecal immunoglobulin synthesis

References available on request.

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