

## LAB ALERT

**Date:** June 22, 2017

### **Recommendations when testing Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) by Flow Cytometry**

Dear Regional Pathology Services Clients,

Cell surface markers analysis of CSF by flow cytometry is designed for detecting central nervous system involvement by hematologic malignancies including lymphoma and leukemia. The laboratory has recently conducted a study as follows: 24 CSF specimens with no prior history of hematologic neoplasm and either normal or elevated CSF white cell counts were evaluated. Fourteen of the specimens were not run due to insufficient cell numbers. The ten remaining analyzed specimens contained enough cells for a single antibody cocktail, which generally consisted of a T and B-cell panel. All specimens were negative for evidence of lymphoma cells.

**Based on these findings, we do not recommend routine flow cytometric analysis of CSF specimens with a normal WBC cell count (0-8 cells/ml), no prior history of hematologic neoplasm, and no clinical or morphologic suspicion of hematologic neoplasm.** For patients with a prior history of hematologic neoplasm, flow cytometry analysis will be performed on all submitted CSF specimens with adequate cell numbers and volume.

Questions regarding this recommendation should be directed to Dr. Samuel Pirruccello (pager: 888-1640, phone: 559-7707) or Dr. Jane Yuan (pager: 888-0273, phone: 559-7734).

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