

Allergen, *A. alternata*, (m6) IgE

Test ID: 3548

CPT: 86003

Clinical Significance:

A. alternata, growing commonly on vegetation, is a member of the imperfect fungi and is one of the most important among the allergenic fungi. Brown segmented mycelia give rise to simple or solitary conidiophores, which may produce solitary apical spores, or a string of spores. The spores produced by imperfect fungi vary in shape, size, texture, colour, number of cells, and thickness of the cell wall (1). Although other *Alternaria* species are probably also relevant clinically, in particular as a result of cross-reactivity of the species, most research has been directed toward *A. alternata*. *Alternaria* is one of the main allergens affecting children. In temperate climates, airborne *Alternaria* spores are detectable from May to November, with peaks in late summer and autumn (3). Dispersion of *Alternaria* spores occurs during dry periods. These feature higher wind velocity and lower relative humidity, which result in peak dispersion during sunny afternoon periods (4).

Profile Components:



Labtech Diagnostics

Container:

Serum Separator Tube (SST®)

Transport Temperature:

Room Temperature

Specimen:

Serum

Specimen Stability:

Room temperature: 28 days
Refrigerated: 28 days
Frozen: 1 year

Reject Criteria:

Days Performed:

Mon-Sat

Collection Instructions: