Levetiracetam (Keppra™) testing available at Vancouver laboratory

WHAT’S NEW?
To allow for rapid turnaround time, testing for the anti-epileptic drug levetiracetam (Keppra™) will be performed at our Vancouver laboratory effective June 30, 2016. Testing will be done by enzyme immunoassay. The assay will be offered STAT or routine, with approximate turnaround times of 30 minutes or 4 hours, respectively, from draw time.

BACKGROUND
The ARK™ levetiracetam assay is a homogeneous enzyme immunoassay intended for the quantitative determination of levetiracetam in human serum or plasma on automated chemistry analyzers. Levetiracetam concentrations can be used as an aid in management of patients treated with levetiracetam.

HOW TO ORDER
Levetiracetam (Keppra) LAB477
Collection and handling:
Serum or plasma (heparin or EDTA) is the required specimen type. A steady state, trough (pre-dose) specimen is recommended. The time of last dose should be noted. The blood must be processed as soon as possible after collection (within 2 hours of draw) since hydrolysis of levetiracetam may occur in the prolonged presence of blood cells causing a falsely depressed result. Blood should not be collected using gel separator tubes.

EXPECTED VALUES:
The reference range has been established as 5-40 ug/mL. Circulating levels of levetiracetam (serum blood concentration) may be affected by compliance, renal function, pregnancy, drug-drug interactions and timing of the specimen draw. The clinical effect of serum blood concentrations may be further altered by changes in progression in the severity of the disease and the addition or withdrawal of concomitant drugs which may interact pharmacodynamically with circulating levels of levetiracetam.

QUESTIONS?
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