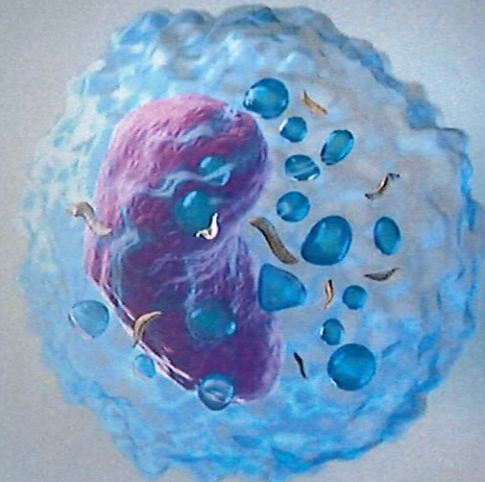


KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

HLA

(Human Leukocyte Antigen)

Typing



HLA typing, also known as tissue typing, looks at various markers found on the surface of cells. These markers are important because the body uses these indicators to separate what is self from non-self.

- HLA is unique to each person
- Antigens are inherited from each parent
- HLA Match is the number of markers that 2 people have in common.
- A perfect match has 6 common markers

CROSSMATCH

An important step in the transplant process. Completed before transplant surgery. Blood from the intended recipient and donor are tested together. Results help to predict how a patient will react to the transplanted kidney.

- Positive Crossmatch: High chance patient will react to the transplanted kidney
- Negative Crossmatch: Low chance patient will react to the transplanted kidney

HLA STORAGE

Once listed for kidney transplant, monthly blood samples are needed for tissue typing. These samples are collected and stored, ready to be used when there is an organ offer. It is important samples are collected and stored regularly.

What happens when there is not a current sample?

- A patient may miss out on an organ offer if there is not a current sample stored to perform a crossmatch

Blood collection can be arranged with the dialysis center or collection kits can be mailed to the patient's home. If mailed to home, the patient can take the kit to a local laboratory for collection or collect themselves if trained to do so.

DIALYSIS CENTER:

1. Draw (1), 7.5 mL red top tube, or 10 mL serum separator tube.
2. Samples should be drawn and mailed the same day, if possible (prefer Monday – Thursday).
3. For patients on hemodialysis, please draw the sample before administering heparin.
4. Using the blood tube label provided with the kit, **PRINT CLEARLY and LABEL the TUBE with:**
 - a) First and last name of patient
 - b) Date of Birth
 - c) Medical Record # (MRN #)
 - d) Draw Date and Time
 - e) Phlebotomist's initials

*** Unlabeled or Incompletely labeled will not be processed!**
5. Send the clotted sample (Do Not Centrifuge).
6. Package specimen tube(s) in the supplied kit as follows:
 - a) Place labeled sample tube(s) into the Styrofoam container, along with the absorbent pad.
 - b) Place the Styrofoam container in the bio-hazard bag and seal it.
 - c) Place the bagged Styrofoam container into the white shipping box.
 - d) Seal the white shipping box with the **RED BOX SEAL (provided)**.
 - e) Adhere the FedEx return label (provided) on the FedEx envelope.
 - f) Call FedEx for pickup at 1-800-463-3339 or drop off at a FedEx office for shipment.

*** DO NOT USE a FedEx Dropbox or FedEx print/ship center!**

When packaged as described, kits meet all regulatory requirements to ship diagnostic specimens via FedEx.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the UPMC HLA Laboratory at (412) 647-6151 (7am-4pm, M-F).

LOCAL LABORATORY:

1. Draw (1), 7.5 mL red top tube, or 10 mL serum separator tube.
2. Samples should be drawn and mailed the same day, if possible (prefer Monday – Thursday).
3. Using the blood tube label provided with the kit, **PRINT CLEARLY and LABEL the TUBE with:**
 - a) First and last name of patient
 - b) Date of Birth
 - c) Medical Record # (MRN #)
 - d) Draw Date and Time
 - e) Phlebotomist's initials

*** Unlabeled or Incompletely labeled will not be processed!**
4. Send the clotted sample (Do Not Centrifuge).
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Collection Kits

- Check frequently to ensure collection kits have not expired (expiration date listed on bottom of kit box)
- Try to use collection kits closest to expiration date first
- To request additional collection kits, please email: WVUTransplant@wvumedicine.org