Varicella zoster IgG Antibody (VZG)
TEST: Measles IgG antibody detected by a two-step quantitative enzyme immunoassay with a final Fluorescent detection ELFA.

**Related investigations:** Varicella zoster IgM, Varicella zoster PCR, Chicken pox, Shingles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen type</th>
<th>Venous blood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Container</td>
<td>A serum gel, CE marked blood tube</td>
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</table>
| Volume / quantity requirements | Minimum volume Adults 3-5 mls  
Children 1-2 mls |

**Optimal time and method of collection**
- Samples should be taken as soon as possible after contact in pregnant / immunocompromised patients and date of exposure stated.
- If recent infection is suspected consider testing for Varicella zoster IgM in addition to IgG
- Antibody levels should be taken 10-14 days after infection or final injection.

**Transportation**
- Place the labelled specimen inside a sealed plastic bag attached to a correctly filled in microbiology request form.
- Transport the specimen to the Microbiology Department at UHND as soon as possible.
- For general transportation information refer to the transport page.

**Storage**
Specimens that cannot be transported or processed immediately should be refrigerated (2-8°C)

**Special considerations and limitations**
- Haemolytic, lipaemic, cloudy or icteric sera may cause incorrect results and should not be used
- Plasma samples are unsuitable for testing
- Interference may be encountered with certain sera containing antibodies directed against reagent components.

**Relevant clinical information**
- State if the patient is immunocompromised / pregnant and date of exposure.
- State the date of onset of infection or other relevant clinical details.
- State the date of vaccination of patient.

**Consent information**
Healthcare professionals: follow local procedures for obtaining consent from patients.

**Biological reference intervals and clinical decision values**
- Results interpretation: TV <0.6 – Not detected  
TV 0.6-0.9 – equivocal  
TV > 0.9 - DETECTED
- Presence of Varicella zoster IgG antibody is indicative of prior exposure to Varicella zoster virus but does not exclude the possibility of current infection.

**Availability of testing**
Varicella zoster IgG tests are processed weekdays only during routine laboratory hours.  
Please contact the laboratory to arrange priority testing during routine laboratory hours.  
For Varicella zoster IgG testing outside of routine laboratory hours please contact on-call Consultant Microbiologist.

**Measured turnaround time**
Refer to the Microbiology Turnaround Times page for current information.

**Information for patients**
Information on this page is intended for clinical staff. Please refer to your healthcare professional if you have any queries regarding your test or visit the NHS Choices website (www.nhs.uk).