

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**Date:** April 12, 2011

Foundation Laboratory is pleased to announce that effective January 14, 2011 H. Pylori Antibody IgM will be performed in-house.

The IgM antibody is the first responder. IgM is elevated during the early stages of an exposure to H. Pylori. There are two possible outcomes, either the immune system will eradicate the bacteria or the bacteria will begin to populate the mucosal lining of the upper GI tract.

If IgM is the only elevated antibody to H. Pylori, it must be correlated with active symptoms to warrant treatment. If asymptomatic, it is quite possible that the patient's immune system has won the battle with H. Pylori on its own. If treatment is not chosen at this time, it would be prudent to retest in 2-3 months to make sure that the patient's immune system has in fact eradicated the infection. Testing for H. Pylori IgM is done by ELISA method.

### **Specimen Requirements:**

- Minimum of 1 ml serum specimen
- Blood should be collected in SST (Serum Separation Tubes)
- Separated Serum specimen need to be shipped refrigerated
- Rejection criteria: Hemolysis

### **Turn Around Time:**

- 5 days

For supplies and other needs please contact your Foundation Laboratory representative.

Sincerely,

Reza M. Massoumi, Ph.D.

Laboratory Manager