

Sample Collection for Suspected cases of Hantavirus Infection:

- IgM Anti body detection : Serum sample is sent under cold chain.

Collection, storage and transportation of samples for Hanta virus infection diagnosis

An essential aspect of the laboratory diagnosis is proper collection, processing, storage and transportation of the specimens.

Collect a blood sample as soon as possible after the onset of illness, hospital admission or attendance at a clinic (This is called the acute serum)

Blood collection in tubes or vials and transportation

- Aseptically collect 2-10 ml of venous blood.
- Use adhesive tape marked with pencil, indelible ink, or a typewritten self adhesive label to identify the container. The name of the patient, identification number and date of collection must be indicated on the label.
- Use vacuum tubes or vials with screw caps.
- Fix the cap with adhesive tape, wax to prevent leakage during transport.
- Transport specimens to the laboratory in an ice box as soon as possible.
- Do not freeze whole blood, as haemolysis may interfere with serology test results.
- If there is more than a 24-hour delay before specimens can be submitted to the laboratory, the serum should be separated from the red blood cells and stored frozen.

PCR & Virus isolation: Samples like Urine, Sputum and Blood to be collected in Viral Transport Medium (VTM) and transported to the Lab in cold chain.

Sample aliquoting, packaging and transportation for PCR & Virus isolation

Type, of specimen for detection of Hanta virus

- Throat Swab
- Sputum
- Tracheal Aspirates
- Urine

Collection

- Sample should be collected in 1 to 2 ml VTM¹ contained in a 5 or 10 ml vial.
- Swab used must be of polyester or dacron tip.
- 2ml Urine should be obtained from the tube but not from the catheter bag into 1 to 2 ml VTM¹ contained in a 5 or 10 ml vial..

Packaging:

- Triple layer packaging is advisable.
- Tube containing samples in VTM should be wrapped around with the tissue paper, then tied with a rubber band. This is the primary container.
- It should then be placed in a zip lock bag which serves as the secondary container.
- Another zip lock bag should contain the case Investigation details and history sheet of the patient.
- The secondary container along with the Ziploc is then placed in the tertiary container which could be a cool-box/vaccine carrier with ice-packs. A set of four icepacks maintains refrigeration for up to 48 hours.

Transportation:

- Triple layer packed samples should be transported as quickly as possible in cold condition to the testing lab.

Preventive Measures:

- Rodent control.
- Preventing them from entering the home.
- Spraying of household bleach one hour before cleaning of areas suspected to be infested with rodents. (closed go downs, sheds etc.,) wearing of masks while cleaning.