

UCLA DIAGNOSTIC MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY LABORATORY
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
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Phone: (310) 794-2781, Fax: (310) 794-2765

Sex Identity

↑CPT

83890; 84311; 83898 (x2); 83894 (x2); 83912

↑Synonyms

Sex Determination; Y Chromosome DNA Detection

↑Test Includes

Determining genetic sex

↑Laboratory

Molecular Pathology

↑Availability

Monday-Friday, 0700-1700

↑Turnaround Time

3-14 days

↑Specimen

Whole blood, amniotic fluid

↑Volume

4 mL of blood; 10 mL of amniotic fluid

↑Container

Lavender top (EDTA) tube

↑ Storage Instructions

All specimens should be sent to the Laboratory immediately after collection, preferably by overnight delivery. Specimens should be kept at room temperature or refrigerated but not frozen.

↑ Causes for Rejection

Blood samples frozen and thawed will yield low quality DNA; specimens inadequately identified

↑ Reference Range

Observation of the appropriate PCR product by gel electrophoresis identifies the fetus or patient as carrying genetic material specific for the Y chromosome. In almost all cases, such a finding is indicative of conventional sex being male.

↑ Use

Detection of DNA specific to the Y chromosome may be helpful in determining genetic sex of an individual prenatally, or postnatally in cases of ambiguous genitalia or other intersex syndromes.

↑ Limitations

The remote possibility of ambiguous or intersex situations due to sex chromosome mosaicism or Y-chromosome translocation cannot be completely ruled out by this test.

↑ Methodology

Fetal or patient DNA is analyzed by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) using primers specific for sequences or genes (SRY and amelogenin) on the Y chromosome.
