Syphilis Serodiagnostic. Test by flocculation on slide

PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD
VDRL Antigen is a non treponemal preparation specially developed for the rapid detection and semi-quantification by coagulation on a slide of plasma reagins, a group of antibodies detected against tissue components produced by almost every patient infected with Treponema pallidum.

The assay is performed by testing the antigen, an association of lecithin, cardiolipin and cholesterol, against unknown samples. The presence or absence of a visible flocculation or agglutination indicates the presence or absence of circulating antibodies in the samples tested.

The test permits a rapid screening of a large number of samples so that reactors can be give immediate treatment. In the particular case of blood banks the test allows the quick identification of all serological reactive blood samples

REAGENTS
VDRL Antigen: Alcoholic solution containing –cardiolipin 0.3 g/L, lecithin 2.1 g/L and cholesterol 9 g/L/.
VDRL Buffer: Phosphate buffer 1.5 mmol/L. Preservative, pH 6.0.
Control +: Artificial serum with a reagin titer ≥ 1/8.
Control -: Animal serum. Preservative.

PRECAUTIONS
Contact – Corrosive (C): R35: Causes severe burns. S26: In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. S37/39: Wear suitable gloves and eye/face protection.

CALIBRATION
The reagent sensitivity is calibrated against the “Human Reactive Serum” from CDC (Center for Disease Control).

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT
- stop watch
- clear glass slides
- mechanical rotator adjustable to 180 rpm.
- light microscope 100X

PREPARATION
Antigen suspension:

1. Bring the VDRL antigen and Buffer to room temperature (23-29°C).
2. Place 0.4 mL of VDRL buffer into a 25 mL glass flat bottomed bottle.
3. Using a glass pipette, add 0.5 mL of VDRL antigen, drop by drop onto the VDRL diluent while continuously and vigorously rotating the bottle on a flat surface.
4. After addition keep on shaking the bottle during 10 more seconds.
5. Add 4.1 mL of VDRL buffer, allowing to flow down the side of the bottle.
6. Put the cap on the bottle and shake it vertically approximately 30 times in 10 seconds.
7. Let the suspension stand for 5 minutes. The antigenic suspension is ready to be used. Shake gently before use. More or less antigenic suspension can be prepared, but always keeping just the same proportions.

STORAGE AND STABILITY
All kit reagents will remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label, when stored tightly closed at 2-8°C and contaminations are prevented during their use.

Prepared VDRL antigen suspension remains stable for 24 hours at 15 - 25°C. Do not freeze.

If turbidity or precipitation has occurred the reagent should be discarded.

SAMPLES
Fresh serum, plasma or cerebrospinal fluid. Stable 7 days at 2 - 8°C or three months at –20°C.