

University of California, San Francisco- Clinical Laboratory
at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital
1001 Potrero Ave, SF, CA 94110
Barbara Haller, MD, PhD, Laboratory Director

Point of Care Testing: pH Vaginal Testing

UNIT: Labor and Delivery H22/H25

4/29/2021


Date: _____

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Eleanor Drey, MD

Medical Director, Labor and Delivery

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Director, Clinical Laboratory

Clinical Indication

Used in conjunction with other physical findings to aid in the diagnosis of rupture of amniotic membranes in pregnant women. Rupture of the amniotic membrane can result in leakage of small volumes of amniotic fluid into the upper vagina. The presence of amniotic fluid tends to elevate the pH. Detection of a pH increase using a pH indicator dye has been shown to assist in determining the presence of amniotic fluid.

Documentation

- All pH results are recorded on the Patient Results form and scanned into the patient's medical record or entered directly into the patient electronic medical record.
- Test performed by providers only.

Clinical Action

- pH of 4.5: usually no further action unless strong suspicion of ruptured membranes based on history and physical exam. If negative results but strong suspicion, actions depend on clinical judgment of the provider.
- pH greater than 4.5: proceed to Fern Test/further evaluation and decisions on further workup or management depends on the clinical status of the patient and judgment of the provider.
- Certified providers will review all results.