



News Release

Siemens fully automated ADVIA Centaur Syphilis Assay launches in UK

The addition of the syphilis assay to the ADVIA Centaur menu allows further consolidation of infectious disease testing onto a single platform, helping laboratories to improve their efficiency and deliver fast, accurate results

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics has announced the availability of its ADVIA Centaur[®] Syphilis Assay¹ for the detection of antibodies against *Treponema pallidum*, a bacterium known to cause the sexually-transmitted disease syphilis. The assay has been CE-marked for use on Siemens' ADVIA Centaur family of high-throughput, random-access immunoassay systems.

Syphilis has been called the "great imposter" because its symptoms can mimic other infections in advanced stages². When left untreated, syphilis can lead to serious neurological and cardiovascular complications, and cause stillbirth in pregnant women. Fortunately, detection of the presence of syphilis antibodies in patients may be used to support decisions for antibiotic therapy, detect persons at risk to spread the infection and identify those that are not aware of their infection, thus preventing late complications. Recently, a meta-analysis of 10 studies involving 41,049 women found that screening and treatment of the infection in pregnant women could reduce by more than half the number of stillbirths and perinatal deaths resulting from maternal transmission of syphilis³.

"Testing for syphilis is a simple, yet effective tool for optimising health outcomes in at-risk patients," said Dave Hickey, Chief Executive Officer, Chemistry, Immunoassay, Automation and Diagnostics IT Business Unit, Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. "Consolidating syphilis testing onto a single system addresses a critical challenge of laboratories today - to improve operational efficiency while delivering fast, accurate results that help guide clinicians in identifying and caring for patients affected by this disease."

Additionally, Siemens offers an extensive portfolio of highly automated infectious disease assays (available on the ADVIA Centaur/XP/CP and IMMULITE® 2000 XPi immunoassay systems) compatible with laboratory automation. By consolidating a broad range of infectious disease tests on Siemens automation solutions, laboratory customers benefit from cost efficiencies by reducing laboratory technician time and that needed to produce patient test results.

For more information, visit: www.siemens.com/infectious-disease

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Notes to editor:

1. ADVIA Centaur Syphilis Assays is not available for sale in US. Method availability is subject to local regulatory requirements.
2. Medscape. Available at <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/229461-overview#a0101>. Accessed 6/10/11
3. Hawkes, S, Matin, M, Broutet, N, Low, N. Effectiveness of interventions to improve screening for syphilis in pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Early Online Publication, 16 June 2011
doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(11)70104-9

About Siemens Healthcare

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimizing clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 48,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world. In fiscal year 2010 (to September 30), the Sector posted revenue of 12.4 billion euros and profit of around 750 million euros. For further information please visit: www.siemens.com/healthcare

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Picture caption: Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics has announced availability of its ADVIA Centaur® Syphilis Assay for use on Siemens ADVIA Centaur® Immunoassay Systems.

