

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR: SPERMAR™ IGG KIT

### **FAQ1: Can we perform the SpermMar IgG test on washed spermcells ?**

We advice against washing the spermcells before performing the direct SpermMar IgG test for a number of reasons.

First of all, some washing media contain human serum albumin (HSA). HSA tends to form a "shield" around the spermcells which hide the antibodies so that they can not be detected by the test method.

Secondly, washing the sperm sample will remove most of the antibodies that could be present in the seminal plasma and might thus render false negative results.

### **FAQ2: We do the SpermMar IgG test, should we also do the SpermMar IgA test ?**

Most laboratories only do the SpermMar IgG on a routine basis, in case of a positive IgG they also do an IgA.

It does happen however that a patient with a negative IgG is positive for IgA. So, from a clinical point of view you should do both SpermMar IgG and SpermMar IgA, from an economical point of view however you could probably opt for the IgG as a routine test and IgA for positive IgG's.

### **FAQ3: Why does the SpermMar IgG kit contain 2 bottles and the SpermMar IgA only 1 ?**

The SpermMar IgG kit contains one bottle of latex particles coated with IgG and one bottle of anti-IgG antiserum. The antiserum actually links the antibodies on the surface of the spermatozoa to the antibodies on the surface of the latex particles.

The SpermMar IgA on the other hand contains only one bottle of latex particles coated with monoclonal anti-IgA directly linking the latex particles to the antibodies on the surface of the spermatozoa. The SpermMar IgA therefore only needs 1 bottle of reagents where the SpermMar IgG needs 2.

### **FAQ4: Sometimes when I do the SpermMar IgG test, the spermcells stop moving after 15 minutes, is this normal ?**

Yes it is, after mixing the reagents with the spermatozoa wait 2-3 minutes before reading the results, you should not wait longer than 5 minutes.

### **FAQ5: In the SpermMar IgG test the latex particels agglutinate, is this normal ?**

Yes it is, because of the principle explained in faq2, the antiserum not only links the latex particels to the spermatozoa but also to the other latex particels which also contain IgG. The particels therefore tend to agglutinate.

Another reason why agglutination may occur is because the bottles containing the latex particles was not mixed well before use. Also make sure to thoroughly mix the antiserum with the latex particels and the sperm on the slide.

### **FAQ6: Do you supply positive or negative controls for the SpermMar IgG test ?**

Yes we do, the controls are already diluted by us and can be used directly out of the bottle. The controls can only be used in the indirect SpermMar test.

Note: The positive and negative controls are made up of human sourced materials and should be treated as potentially infectious.

### **FAQ7: Can we perform the Indirect SpermMar IgG test on frozen/thawed semen plasma samples?**

Yes it can. It is best centrifuge the UNTREATED semen sample before freezing the semen plasma at -18C or below.