

Memo No. 2020-009
Date: 07-Feb-2020
Memo To: Clients
Re: *TSH Receptor Antibodies*

Effective immediately, Quest Diagnostics has discontinued the radioreceptor TSH Receptor Antibodies (“TBII”) assay. We apologize for the short notice but have just been informed by Quest of the discontinuation.

However, the TSH Receptor Antibodies “TRAB” assay offered at St. Michael’s Hospital remains available and is the replacement test.

TBII and TRAB

Analysis of TSH receptor antibodies (stimulating + blocking) has been available at two different labs by two different methods. Quest Diagnostics offered a radioreceptor assay as “Thyrotropin Binding Inhibitory Immunoglobulin (TBII), Serum” and St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto offers an electrochemiluminescence immunoassay (ECLIA) as “Thyroid Receptor Antibodies (TRAB), Serum”. While these tests differed in test site, name and method, they both measured stimulating and blocking antibodies and studies have shown them to be comparable, thus sharing clinical utility.

ICL will contact clients upon receipt of orders for the Quest TBII test, seeking authorization to order the TRAB assay instead.

However, please note that **effective March 2nd, 2020**, ICL will refer all orders for “Thyrotropin Binding Inhibitory Immunoglobulin” or “TBII” to St. Michael’s Hospital for “Thyroid Receptor Antibodies (TRAB), Serum” analysis without contacting the ordering client, as these are valid test names for the St. Michael’s Hospital test.

- [Thyroid Receptor Antibodies \(TRAB\), Serum](#)
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Another Test: Thyroid Stimulating Immunoglobulin (TSI), Serum

There is another assay for detection of TSH Receptor antibodies, thyroid stimulating immunoglobulin (TSI) bioassay. It is a live-cell assay detecting TSI by measuring cyclic AMP production when the TSH receptor is activated. The assay detects ONLY stimulating antibodies and not blocking antibodies. It is not the same as the TRAB/TBII assay. Being a technically challenging and more expensive assay, the TSI bioassay is usually used as a second-order test and not used for initial screening or workup.

- [Thyroid Stimulating Immunoglobulin \(TSI\), Serum](#)
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If you have further questions, please contact Client Care at (416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 or info@ICLabs.ca

Dr. Shashank Tilak, Ph.D., DCC
Laboratory Director
(416) 422-3000 Ext. 221

ShashTilak@ICLabs.ca

Want to receive updates by e-mail? Please contact Client Care info@ICLabs.ca

ICL is the only Not-For-Profit dedicated broker of lab diagnostic tests in Canada
57 Gervais Drive, North York, ON M3C 1Z2
2020-009-TRAB-TSI

(416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 info@ICLabs.ca

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