

Clinical Directorate of Laboratory Medicine, Beaumont Hospital					
Doc No:	CP-LI-0080	Revision	4	Active Date	08/02/2021
Protocol for Sending CSF Samples to Beaumont for Xanthochromia Analysis					

Purpose: Guidelines for CSF samples sent to Beaumont for Xanthochromia Analysis
Materials: n/a
Safety Precautions: Protect sample from light
Authorised By: Orla Cahalane
Associated SOP: CP-LP-0063
Procedure:

Protocol for Sending CSF Samples to Beaumont for Xanthochromia Analysis

This test is performed to try to identify those patients who have had a subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) but in whom the CT scan is negative. The spectrophotometric scan detects bilirubin in CSF and this finding may be consistent with a bleed into the CSF.

Collection Guidelines:

- Sample must be taken **at least 12 hours** post suspected SAH (may be useful up to 2 weeks post event).
- **At least 1 ml** of CSF is required. It is best to use the last sample taken during LP (i.e. least blood contaminated). Do not dilute the specimen.
- **Protect** the specimen immediately **from light**.
- A blood sample should be taken at the same time. This sample should be tested for bilirubin and total protein (this may be required for interpretation of CSF bilirubin result).
- **Do not use a pneumatic tube system** for transporting the sample to the laboratory.
- **Centrifuge the sample** at > 2,000 rpm for 5 minutes within 1 hour of collection. Store the supernatant at 4°C in the dark until analysis.

Contact Beaumont Clinical Chemistry to inform them that a sample is being sent in for analysis.

Contact the Protein Laboratory (9-5 mon-fri) on (01) 8092305. Contact the Routine Biochemistry laboratory (all other hours) on (01) 8092704.