



## **Guidelines for the collection, pre-treatment, shipment and storage of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).**

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**Immunoblot CSF** (14-3-3-protein) with subsequent **RT-QuIC CSF** (PrP<sup>sc</sup>-protein) **only IF** the diagnostic criteria 'possible CJD' according to the WHO/ECDC have been met **OR** 14-3-3 protein analysis returned (weak) positive. (Acta neurologica Belgica 2018 Behaeghe et al.)

- Analysis cost: 115 euro full cost or 65 euro if 14-3-3 protein returns negative in absence of 'possible CJD' diagnostic data. Please include minimal clinical data, Cfr. IBB Request form.

Please inform your patient about the cost of these analyses. This cost is not covered by the regular Belgian insurance companies (refunding is however provided by some supplementary hospitalization insurances).

### 1. CSF collection

- Lumbar puncture at level L3/L4 or L4/L5
- Collect at least 2 ml CSF in a **polypropylene** tube
- Label tube

### 2. CSF pre-treatment in case a macroscopically hemorrhagic CSF (within 4h after LP)

- Centrifuge CSF to exclude cells for 10 min at 3000 rpm.
- Transfer supernatant to unused polypropylene tube.

### 3. Shipment to lab for biomarker analyses

**Always include the IBB Biomarker request sheet** which includes an informed consent and relevant clinical data.

- **Unfrozen, within 60h after lumbar puncture:**
  - Packages sent by courier at 4°C are highly recommended!
  - Regular postal services must be avoided (no 4°C shipments guaranteed); in any case never send with regular postal services on a Thursday afternoon or on a Friday to avoid 'next week' arrivals.
- **Frozen, if not sent within 60h after lumbar puncture:**
  - Store CSF tubes at -20°C or lower until shipment.
  - Packages must be sent by courier on dry ice (-80°C), thawing must be avoided.

### 4. Arrival, storage and analysis at lab

- On arrival **all samples will be registered** in the IBB-database.
- Samples will be stored until a batch of min. 8 samples is available for analyses.
- **Results will be sent** to the corresponding doctor and to the clinical lab of the hospital (reply **within 2.5 weeks** after sample arrival).