



Report of STARHS Test Results

Version 3.0 15/09/09

The STARHS test result for each sample sent to the Virus Reference Department (VRD), will be returned to the laboratory that submitted that sample along with a standard interpretation for that test result. These will then be forwarded onto the clinic to be interpreted together with the individual patient's other clinical markers.

STARHS test results will be interpreted as either:

i. HIV Incidence Test - HIV infection unlikely to have been acquired within the last 4-5 months.

These findings indicate that HIV seroconversion probably did not occur in the 4-5 months prior to the sample date. However, this assay cannot confirm long-standing HIV infection and these findings should be interpreted with caution depending on the clinical and HIV risk information.

ii. HIV Incidence Test - Result possibly indicative of recently acquired HIV infection.

These findings indicate that seroconversion may have occurred in the 4-5 months prior to the sample date. Recent HIV infection is indicated when the HIV avidity index is $AI < 80\%$. However, for this specimen, the test value is close to the cut-off and when such values are obtained there is an increased likelihood of the point of infection being more remote, say 6-12 months before testing. Furthermore, a result close to the cut-off is occasionally found in long term infections due to declining antibody levels. This assay cannot confirm recent infection and these findings should be interpreted with caution, particularly if the patient is on anti-retroviral therapy, has AIDS, or may be infected with a non-B subtype virus.

iii. HIV Incidence Test - Result consistent with recently acquired HIV infection.

These findings indicate that HIV seroconversion may have occurred within 4-5 months of the sample date. However, this assay cannot confirm recent infection and these findings should be interpreted with caution, particularly if the patient is on anti-retroviral therapy, has AIDS, or may be infected with a non-B subtype virus.

iv. HIV Incidence Test – Invalid result.

Levels of anti-HIV in this specimen are too low to perform an incidence assay. Please send a further specimen taken at least two weeks later for further analysis.