



# Test Definition: BCMA

B-Cell Maturation Antigen (BCMA), Technical Component only

## Overview

### Useful For

Identifying cases of multiple myeloma with B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA) expression.

### Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
IHTOI	IHC Initial, Tech Only	No	No
IHTOA	IHC Additional, Tech Only	No	No

### Testing Algorithm

For the initial technical component only immunohistochemical (IHC) stain performed, the appropriate bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOI). For each additional technical component only IHC stain performed, an additional bill-only test ID will be reflexed and charged (IHTOA).

### Method Name

Immunohistochemistry (IHC)

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

TECHONLY

### Ordering Guidance

This test includes only technical performance of the stain; **no pathologist interpretation is provided.**

Technical component only stains **should not** be ordered with PATHC / Pathology Consultation. If ordered with PATHC, the technical component stains **will be canceled**. Any immunohistochemistry (IHC)/in situ hybridization (ISH) stain performed as a part of the PATHC will be performed at the reviewing pathologist's discretion at an additional charge.

### Shipping Instructions

Attach the green "Attention Pathology" address label (T498) and the pink Immunostain Technical Only label included in the kit to the outside of the transport container.

### Specimen Required

**Supplies:** Immunostain Technical Only Envelope (T693)

**Specimen Type:** Tissue

**Container/Tube:** Immunostain Technical Only Envelope

**Submit:**

Formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue block

OR

2 Unstained, positively charged glass slides (25- x 75- x 1-mm) per test ordered; sections 4-microns thick

**Digital Image Access**

1. Information on accessing digital images of immunohistochemical (IHC) stains and the manual requisition form can be accessed through this website: <https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/pathology/digital-imaging/>
2. Clients ordering stains using a manual requisition form will not have access to digital images.
3. Clients wishing to access digital images must place the order for IHC stains electronically. Information regarding digital imaging can be accessed through this website: <https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/pathology/digital-imaging/#section3>

**Forms**

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Immunohistochemical \(IHC\)/In Situ Hybridization \(ISH\) Stains Request](#) (T763) with the specimen.

**Reject Due To**

Wet/frozen tissue	Reject
Cytology smears	Reject
Nonformalin fixed tissue	Reject
Nonparaffin embedded tissue	Reject
Noncharged slides	Reject
ProbeOn slides	Reject
Snowcoat slides	Reject

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
TECHONLY	Ambient (preferred)		
	Refrigerated		

**Clinical & Interpretive**

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**Clinical Information**

B-cell maturation antigen is expressed on benign plasma cells and can be overexpressed in myeloma.

**Interpretation**

This test does not include pathologist interpretation, only technical performance of the stain. If interpretation is required, order PATHC / Pathology Consultation for a full diagnostic evaluation or second opinion of the case.

The positive and negative controls are verified as showing appropriate immunoreactivity.

Interpretation of this test should be performed in the context of the patient's clinical history and other diagnostic tests by a qualified pathologist.

**Cautions**

Age of a cut paraffin section can affect immunoreactivity. Stability thresholds vary widely among published literature and are antigen dependent. Best practice is for paraffin sections to be cut within 6 weeks.

The charge of glass slides can be affected by environmental factors and subsequently may alter slide staining. Sending unsuitable glass slides can result in inconsistent staining due to poor slide surface chemistry.

Best practices for storage of positively charged slides:

- Minimize time slides are stored after being unpackaged
- Limit exposure to high humidity and heat
- Minimize exposure to plastics

[Recommended fixation time is between 6 and 48 hours.](#)

This assay has not been validated on tissues subjected to the decalcification process or use of alternative fixatives for bone and bone marrow specimens or cell blocks.

**Clinical Reference**

1. Gras MP, Laabi Y, Linares-Cruz G, et al. BCMAp: an integral membrane protein in the Golgi apparatus of human mature B lymphocytes. *Int Immunol.* 1995;7(7):1093-1106
2. O'Connor BP, Raman VS, Erickson LD, et al. BCMA is essential for the survival of long-lived bone marrow plasma cells. *J Exp Med.* 2004;199(1):91-98
3. Sanchez E, Li M, Kitto A, et al. Serum B-cell maturation antigen is elevated in multiple myeloma and correlates with disease status and survival. *Br J Haematol.* 2012;158(6):727-738
4. Tedder B, Bhutani M. Resistance Mechanisms to BCMA Targeting bispecific antibodies and CAR T-cell therapies in multiple myeloma. *Cells.* 2025;14(14):1077
5. Feng D, Sun J. Overview of anti-BCMA CAR-T immunotherapy for multiple myeloma and relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma. *Scand J Immunol.* 2020;92(2):e12910
6. Zhou X, Rasche L, Kortum KM, Mersi J, Einsele H. BCMA loss in the epoch of novel immunotherapy for multiple myeloma: from biology to clinical practice. *Haematologica.* 2023;108(4):958-968

**Performance****Method Description**

Immunohistochemistry on sections of paraffin-embedded tissue.(Unpublished Mayo method)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Friday

**Report Available**

1 to 3 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

Until staining is completed

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

**CPT Code Information**

88342-TC, Primary

88341-TC, If additional IHC

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
BCMA	BCMA IHC, Tech Only	No LOINC Needed

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
623360	BCMA IHC, Tech Only	No LOINC Needed