**PURPOSE**

Borreliosis is caused by two groups of *Borrelia*, *B. burgdorferi* group and the Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever (TBRF) *Borrelia* group. It was believed that *B. burgdorferi* group is the only group that causes Lyme-like symptoms. However, we now know that TBRF *Borrelia* too causes Lyme-like symptoms. Symptoms caused by both these *Borrelia* groups are often confused with MS, Chronic fatigue, Osteo-arthritis, and ALS. *B. burgdorferi* is transmitted by hard ticks (*Ixodes*) whereas TBRF *Borrelia* can be transmitted by hard and soft (*Ornithodorus*) ticks. The Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever (TBRF) *Borrelia* immunoblot is designed to detect antibodies to specific antigens of TBRF *Borrelia* in human serum. For diagnostic purposes, immunoblot test results should be used in conjunction with patient's clinical history, symptoms and other evidence available to the diagnosing physician.

**PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

The specificity of the TBRF ImmunoBlot is 92% for IgM and 100% for IgG based on a study performed on 50 samples provided by CDC. (This included 40 samples from patients with other diseases and 10 from healthy controls living in TBRF endemic regions.)

**ADVANTAGES**

TBRF ImmunoBlot detects antibodies to TBRF *Borrelia* species from North America, European and Australia strains. This is based on our studies on over 500 patient sera. The three most common species detected were:

- B. hermsii
- B. miyamotoi
- B. turicatae

**SAMPLE REQUIREMENT:**

0.5 ml serum

**TEST NUMBER:**

345*  TBRF ImmunoBlot IgM

355*  TBRF ImmunoBlot IgG

**CPT CODE:**

86619

*Tests/panels not available for NY Residents