



## ***Babesia microti* IFA Kits**

**(Catalog BMG-120 and BMM-120)**

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### **Performance Characteristics**

#### **SENSITIVITY**

The indirect immunofluorescence antibody assay (IFA) for *Babesia microti* was described in the literature in 1978<sup>1</sup> and has served thereafter as the most common method for serodiagnosis. The Fuller Laboratories test uses *Babesia microti*-(GI strain)-infected hamster erythrocytes as the antigen substrate.

Specific IgM antibody is often detectable at the onset of parasitemia, with IgG detection following within 1-2 weeks. Due to the wide variety of antigens present on the whole organism by the IFA technique, sensitivity is approximately equal to Western immunoblot assay using whole cell lysates<sup>4</sup>. Sensitivity of the IgM test is 91% and IgG 39% in the acute phase. In convalescent phase sera the sensitivity rises to a range of 88-96%, depending upon the testing center performing the assay<sup>1-4</sup>.

#### **SPECIFICITY**

There have been no reports of crossreactivity in the IFA procedure, with the exception of related *Babesia* spp. Specificity has been reported as 90-100% in a comparison of test centers<sup>2</sup>, with IgM reported as 99% specific<sup>3</sup>. Sera from a nonendemic region were tested in-house, 94 from Southern California. There were no positives (100% specific).

#### **References**

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