What Blood Tests Do Doctors Use to Help Them Diagnose Alpha-gal Syndrome?

- The set of blood tests that doctors use to help them diagnose alpha-gal syndrome is called an Alpha-gal Panel. Total IgE should also be measured, as some cases are non-atopic and have low total IgE and the ratio of alpha-gal IgE to total IgE is clinically significant.

- In the U.S., Viracor Eurofins Clinical Diagnostics is the main lab that does this test. See below.

  Alpha-Gal Panel Test Code:
  403196P Tests in this Panel
  Galactose-alpha-1,3 galactose (Alpha-Gal) IgE Beef (Bos spp) IgE
  Pork (Sus spp) IgE
  Lamb / Mutton (Ovis spp) IgE

- Both Quest and Labcorp can send your blood samples to Viracor, if your doctor gives them the right codes. See below the correct test codes at the time this was written. Check the links below to make sure the test codes have not changed:

  Quest: Test Code 91380
  https://testdirectory.questdiagnostics.com/test/test-detail/91380/?cc=MASTER

  Labcorp Test Code 807003
  https://td.halfpenny.com/labcorp/duke/testdisplay/807003

- Unfortunately, in many cases the wrong blood test is performed. The test below is NOT the right test for diagnosing alpha-gal syndrome. It's for diagnosing another condition, Fabry disease.

  α-Galactosidase A Deficiency --this is the wrong test!

- Sometimes doctors order the test for alpha-gal IgE alone, not the whole panel. When they do this, they usually order tests for beef and pork IgE, and sometimes milk IgE, as well. This helps them figure out if you have another condition, like pork-cat syndrome, or an allergy to proteins in beef, pork, or milk. See links below for lab codes for alpha-gal IgE alone:

  - Quest
  - Labcorp

- Ask your doctor for a copy of your lab report, both for your records and so you can make sure the right test was ordered.