

Laboratory Testing for Celiac Disease

When considering a diagnosis of celiac disease, be certain to order the celiac disease cascade and not the individual components (see figure 1). The cascade is designed for maximum efficiency and sensitivity. Do not order anti-endomysial antibodies, a more expensive send out test, except for in the rare situation where the cascade gives you an equivocal result.

Notes:

- Combining TTG-IgA and anti-d-gliadin IgA in the first step increases the sensitivity from approximately 83% to 93%.
- Patients with IgA deficiency may be falsely negative with the IgA forms of TTG and d-gliadin, hence the reflex testing if the total IgA is low.

