

What does CT mean?

In a real time PCR assay a positive reaction is detected by accumulation of a fluorescent signal. The CT (cycle threshold) is defined as the number of cycles required for the fluorescent signal to exceed background levels. CT levels are inversely proportional to the amount of target nucleic acid in the sample (i.e., the lower the CT level the greater the amount of target nucleic acid in the sample). WVDL real time assays undergo 40 cycles of amplification.

Values ≤ 36 are positive. Results of suspect, inconclusive or weak positive with Ct values from 37-40 indicate minimal amounts of target nucleic acid which could represent early or late infection, residual vaccine or environmental contamination.

