

Typical Spinal Fluid Results for Meningitis				
Normals	Bacterial	Viral	Neoplastic	Fungal
Opening pressure < 17cm H ₂ O	> 30 cm	< 30 cm	20 cm	30 cm
WBC count < 5 polys	> 1000 /mm ³	< 1000 /mm ³	< 500 /mm ³	< 500 /mm ³
% PMN cells	> 80%	1 - 50%	1 - 50%	1 - 50%
Glucose 60-80% of serum level	< 2.2 mmol/L	> 2.2 mmol/L	< 2.2 mmol/L	< 2.2 mmol/L
Protein < 0.5 g/L	> 2 g/L	< 2 g/L	> 2 g/L	> 2 g/L
Stain / Culture	Gram-stain, PCR or latex agglutination	Consider PCR or serology	Cytology	Cytology + special stains (eg. India ink)