Test Definition: ALP

Alkaline Phosphatase, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Diagnosing and monitoring treatment of liver, bone, intestinal, and parathyroid diseases

Method Name

Colorimetric

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Necessary Information

Patient's age and sex are required.

Specimen Required

Collection Container/Tube:

Preferred: Serum gel

Acceptable: Red top

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 1 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Serum gel tubes should be centrifuged within 2 hours of collection.
2. Red-top tubes should be centrifuged and aliquoted within 2 hours of collection.

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Kidney Transplant Test Request with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.5 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Frozen (preferred)	60 days	
	Ambient	7 days	
	Refrigerated	7 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Alkaline phosphatase in serum consists of 4 structural genotypes: liver-bone-kidney, intestinal, and placental types, and the variant from the germ cells. It is found in osteoblasts, hepatocytes, leukocytes, the kidneys, spleen, placenta, prostate, and the small intestine. The liver-bone-kidney type is particularly important.

A rise in the alkaline phosphatase occurs with all forms of cholestasis, particularly with obstructive jaundice. It is also elevated in diseases of the skeletal system, such as Paget disease, hyperparathyroidism, rickets, and osteomalacia, as well as with fractures and malignant tumors. A considerable rise in the alkaline phosphatase activity is sometimes seen in children and teenagers. It is caused by increased osteoblast activity following accelerated bone growth.

Reference Values

Males
0-14 days: 83-248 U/L
15 days-<1 year: 122-469 U/L
1-<10 years: 142-335 U/L
10-<13 years: 129-417 U/L
13-<15 years: 116-468 U/L
15-<17 years: 82-331 U/L
17-<19 years: 55-149 U/L
> or =19 years: 40-129 U/L

Females
0-14 days: 83-248 U/L
15 days-<1 year: 122-469 U/L
1-<10 years: 142-335 U/L
10-<13 years: 129-417 U/L
13-<15 years: 57-254 U/L
15-<17 years: 50-117 U/L
> or =17 years: 35-104 U/L

Interpretation

Increases in serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity commonly originate from either one or both of 2 sources: liver and bone. Consequently, serum ALP measurements are of particular interest in the investigation of 2 groups of conditions: hepatobiliary disease and bone disease associated with increased osteoblastic activity.

Serum ALP was the first enzyme to be used for the investigation of hepatic disease. The response of the liver to any form of biliary tree obstruction induces the synthesis of ALP by hepatocytes. The newly formed coenzyme is released from the

cell membrane by the action of bile salts and enters the circulation to increase the enzyme activity in serum. Increase tends to be more notable (greater than 4-fold the upper reference value [URV]) in extrahepatic obstruction (eg, by stone, by cancer of the head of the pancreas) than in intrahepatic obstruction and is greater the more complete the obstruction. Serum enzyme activities may reach 10 to 12 times the URV and usually return to baseline on surgical removal of the obstruction. A similar increase is seen in patients with advanced primary liver cancer or widespread secondary hepatic metastases. ALP increase (greater than 2-fold the URV) can predict transplant-free survival rates of patients with primary biliary cirrhosis.

Liver diseases that principally affect parenchymal cells, such as infectious hepatitis, typically show only moderately (less than 3-fold) increased or even normal serum ALP activities. Increases may also be seen as a consequence of a reaction to drug therapy, and ALT/ALP-based criteria to discriminate the type of liver injury in drug-induced hepatic toxicity have been recommended. Intestinal ALP isoenzyme, an asialoglycoprotein normally cleared by the hepatic asialoglycoprotein receptors, is often increased in patients with liver cirrhosis.

Cautions

Pediatric reference values should be used to properly interpret alkaline phosphatase values in children and adolescents.

Clinical Reference

1. Panteghini M, Bais R: Serum enzymes. In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer C, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. Elsevier; 2018:404-434
2. Abicht K, El-Samalouti V, Junge W, et al: Multicenter evaluation of new GGT and AlP reagents with new reference standardization and determination of 37 degrees C reference intervals. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2001;39(Special Suppl):S346
3. Estey MP, Cohen AH, Colantonio DA, et al: CLSI-based transference of the CALIPER database of pediatric reference intervals from Abbott to Beckman, Ortho, Roche and Siemens Clinical Chemistry Assays: Direct validation using reference samples from the CALIPER cohort. Clin Biochem. 2013;46:1197-1219
4. Lammers WJ, van Buuren HR, Hirschfield GM, et al: Levels of alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin are surrogate end points of outcomes of patients with primary biliary cirrhosis: An international follow-up study. Gastroenterology. 2014; 147: pp. 1338-1349

Performance

Method Description

In the presence of magnesium and zinc ions, p-nitrophenyl phosphate is cleaved by phosphatases into phosphate and p-nitrophenol. The p-nitrophenol released is directly proportional to the catalytic alkaline phosphatase activity. It is determined by measuring the increase in absorbance.(Package insert: Alkaline Phosphatase reagent. Roche Diagnostics; 09/2022)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Sunday

Report Available
Same day/1 to 2 days

Specimen Retention Time
1 week

Performing Laboratory Location
Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

Fees & Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

CPT Code Information
84075

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
ALP	Alkaline Phosphatase, S	6768-6

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
ALP	Alkaline Phosphatase, S	6768-6