

Overview

Useful For

Investigation of a variety of diseases involving the heart, liver, muscle, kidney, lung, and blood

Monitoring changes in tumor burden after chemotherapy; [lactate dehydrogenase elevations in patients with cancer are too erratic to be of use in the diagnosis of cancer](#)

Testing Algorithm

See [Multiple Myeloma: Laboratory Screening](#)

Special Instructions

- [Multiple Myeloma: Laboratory Screening](#)

Method Name

Photometric Rate Reaction

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Necessary Information

Patient's age is 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.

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis Reject

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.25 mL

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Ambient (preferred)	7 days	
	Frozen	30 days	
	Refrigerated		

Clinical & Interpretive**Clinical Information**

Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) activity is present in all cells of the body with highest concentrations in heart, liver, muscle, kidney, lung, and erythrocytes. Serum LDH is elevated in a number of clinical conditions.

Reference Values

1-30 days: 135-750 U/L

31 days-11 months: 180-435 U/L

1-3 years: 160-370 U/L

4-6 years: 145-345 U/L

7-9 years: 143-290 U/L

10-12 years: 120-293 U/L

13-15 years: 110-283 U/L

16-17 years: 105-233 U/L

> or =18 years: 122-222 U/L

Interpretation

Marked elevations in lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) activity can be observed in megaloblastic anemia, untreated pernicious anemia, Hodgkin disease, abdominal and lung cancers, severe shock, and hypoxia.

Moderate to slight increases in LDH levels are seen in myocardial infarction, pulmonary infarction, pulmonary embolism, leukemia, hemolytic anemia, infectious mononucleosis, progressive muscular dystrophy (especially in the early and middle stages of the disease), liver disease, and kidney disease.

In liver disease, elevations of LDH are not as great as the increases in aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT).

Increased levels of the enzyme are found in about one-third of patients with kidney disease, especially those with tubular necrosis or pyelonephritis. However, these elevations do not correlate well with proteinuria or other parameters of kidney disease.

On occasion a raised LDH level may be the only evidence to suggest the presence of a hidden pulmonary embolus.

Cautions

Red blood cells contain much more lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) than serum. A hemolyzed specimen is not acceptable. LDH activity is one of the most sensitive indicators of in vitro hemolysis. Causes can include transportation via pneumatic tube, vigorous mixing, or traumatic venipuncture.

While increases in serum LDH also are seen following a myocardial infarction, the test has been replaced by the determination of troponin.

Clinical Reference

[Panteghini M, Bais R: Serum enzymes. In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. Elsevier; 2018:407-431](#)

Performance

Method Description

Lactate and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD[+]), in the presence of lactate dehydrogenase (LD), are converted to pyruvate and NADH. The rate at which NADH is formed is determined by an increase in absorbance and is directly proportional to enzyme activity. (Package insert: LDH reagent. Roche Diagnostics; 08/2019)

PDF Report

No

Specimen Retention Time

1 week

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

Fees & Codes**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

83615

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
LD	Lactate Dehydrogenase (LD), S	14804-9

Result ID	Reporting Name	LOINC®
LD	Lactate Dehydrogenase (LD), S	14804-9