

Overview

Method Name

Direct Radioimmunoassay (RIA)

NY State Available

No

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Specimen Required

Draw blood in a plain, red-top or a serum gel tube(s). Separate immediately and send 3 mL of serum frozen in a plastic vial.

Note: 1. Indicate serum on request form.

2. Label specimen appropriately (serum).

Patient preparation:

1. The patient should fast for 10 to 12 hours prior to collection.

2. Medications that affect pancreatic activity should be discontinued, if possible, for at least 48 hours prior to collection of specimen.

Reject Due To

Specimens other than	Serum
Anticoagulants other than	NA
Hemolysis	Mild reject; Gross reject
Lipemia	Mild reject; Gross reject
Icteric	NA

Specimen Minimum Volume

1 mL

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Frozen (preferred)	180 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Serum Elastase, also called Pancreatopeptidase, is a protease present in pancreatic secretion with the unique ability to

rapidly hydrolyze elastin. Elastin is a fibrillar protein found in connective tissue. Elastin forms the elastic fibers found mostly in lungs and skin. Elastase is able to hydrolyze denatured hemoglobin, casein, fibrin, albumin and denatured but not native collagen. Elastase has been implicated in the pathogenesis of pulmonary emphysema, atherosclerosis and in the vascular injury of acute pancreatic necrosis. Elastase activity is inhibited by protease inhibitors including α 1-Anti-Trypsin, α 1-anti-Chymotrypsin, anti-Thrombin III, α 2-Macroglobulin and b1-anti-Collagenase. Patients with thyroid dysfunction have decreased Elastase activity. Serum pancreatic levels quantify EL 1 for the diagnosis or exclusion of an acute pancreatitis or an inflammatory episode of chronic pancreatitis or gallstone induced pancreatitis.

Reference Values

Adult Reference Ranges:

Normal pancreatic exocrine function:

Less than 3.5 ng/mL

No pediatric reference ranges available for this test.

Performance**PDF Report**

No

Performing Laboratory Location

Inter Science Institute

Fees & Codes**Test Classification****CPT Code Information**

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