

**Overview****Useful For**

Calculating the citrate concentration per creatinine

Diagnosing risk factors for patients with calcium kidney stones

Monitoring results of therapy in patients with calcium stones or renal tubular acidosis

**Method Name**

Only orderable as part of a profile. For more information see CITRA / Citrate Excretion, Random, Urine.

Calculation

**NY State Available**

Yes

**Specimen****Specimen Type**

Urine

**Specimen Required**

Only orderable as part of a profile. For more information see CITRA / Citrate Excretion, Random, Urine.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

1 mL

**Reject Due To**

All specimens will be evaluated at Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days	
	Frozen	14 days	

**Clinical and Interpretive****Clinical Information**

Urinary citrate is a major inhibitor of kidney stone formation due in part to binding of calcium in urine. Low urine citrate levels are considered a risk for kidney stone formation. Several metabolic disorders are associated with low urine citrate. Any condition that lowers renal tubular pH or intracellular pH may decrease citrate (eg, metabolic acidosis, increased acid ingestion, hypokalemia, or hypomagnesemia).

Low urinary citrate is subject to therapy by correcting acidosis, hypokalemia, or hypomagnesemia by altering diet or

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using drugs such as citrate and potassium.

**Reference Values**

Only orderable as part of a profile. For more information see CITRA / Citrate Excretion, Random, Urine.

No established reference values

**Interpretation**

A low citrate value represents a potential risk for kidney stone formation/growth. Patients with low urinary citrate and new or growing stone formation may benefit from adjustments in therapy known to increase urinary citrate excretion.

Very low citrate levels suggest investigation for the possible diagnosis of metabolic acidosis (eg, renal tubular acidosis).

For children ages 5 to 18, a ratio of less than 0.176 mg citrate/ mg creatinine is below the 5% reference range and considered low.(1)

**Cautions**

Drugs that lower systemic pH, potassium, and/or magnesium also lower urine citrate and are to be avoided in patients with tendency to form calcium stones. Conversely, drugs that raise systemic pH, potassium, and/or magnesium may raise urine citrate and should be considered when treating patients or interpreting results.

**Clinical Reference**

1. Srivastava T, Winston MJ, Auron A et al: Urine calcium/citrate ratio in children with hypercalciuric stones. *Pediatr Res.* 2009;66:85-90
2. Hosking DH, Wilson JW, Liedtke RR, et al: The urinary excretion of citrate in normal persons and patients with idiopathic calcium urolithiasis (abstract). *Urol Res.* 1984;12:26
3. Lieske JC, Wang X: Heritable traits that contribute to nephrolithiasis. *Urolithiasis.* 2019 Feb;47(1):5-10
4. Lieske JC, Turner ST, Edeh SN, Smith JA, Kardia SLR: Heritability of urinary traits that contribute to nephrolithiasis. *Clin J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2014 May;9(5):943-950. doi: 10.2215/CJN.08210813

**Performance****Method Description**

This test calculates the citrate concentration per creatinine. This calculation is performed in the Laboratory Information system, SCC Soft.

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Saturday

**Report Available**

Same day/1 day

**Specimen Retention Time**

7 days

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**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees and 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 Regional Manager. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

Not Applicable

**CPT Code Information**

82507

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
RAT10	Citrate/Creatinine Ratio	13722-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
RAT10	Citrate/Creatinine Ratio	13722-4