

Overview

Useful For

Detecting chromium exposure

Profile Information

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
CRCRR	Chromium/Creat Ratio, U	No	Yes
CRETR	Creatinine, Random, U	No	Yes

Special Instructions

- [Trace Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#)

Method Name

CRCRR: [Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry \(ICP-MS\)](#)

CRETR: Enzymatic Colorimetric Assay

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Urine

Ordering Guidance

High concentrations of gadolinium and iodine are known to interfere with most metal tests. If either gadolinium- or iodine-containing contrast media has been administered, a specimen should not be collected for 96 hours.

Specimen Required

Supplies: Urine Tubes, 10 mL

Collection Container/Tube: Clean, plastic urine container with no metal cap or glued insert

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial or clean, plastic aliquot container with no metal cap or glued insert

Specimen Volume: 3 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect a random urine specimen.
2. See [Trace Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#) in Special Instructions for complete instructions.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.7 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)	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	
	Ambient	14 days	

Clinical and Interpretive**Clinical Information**

Chromium (Cr) has an atomic mass of 51.996, atomic number 24, and valences ranging from 2(-) to 6(+). Hexavalent chromium, Cr(6+), and trivalent chromium, Cr(3+), are the 2 most prevalent forms. Cr(3+) is the only oxidation state present under normal physiologic conditions. Cr(6+) is widely used in industry to make chromium alloys including stainless steel pigments and electroplated coatings. Cr(6+), a known carcinogen, is rapidly metabolized to Cr(3+). Cr(3+) is the only form present in human urine.

Reference Values

0-17 years: not established

>17 years: <0.8 mcg/g Creatinine

Interpretation

Chromium is principally excreted in the urine. Results greater than the reference range indicate either recent exposure to chromium or specimen contamination during collection.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) document on occupational exposure reviews the data supporting use of urine to assess chromium exposure. The biological exposure indices (BEI) for total chromium in urine measured at the end of the shift at the end of the workweek is 25 mcg/L. The BEI for the increase in total chromium during a shift is 10 mcg/L. A test for this specific purpose (CROMU / Chromium for Occupational Monitoring, Random, Urine) is available.

Cautions

Normal specimens have extremely low levels of creatinine; elevated results could easily be a result of external contamination. Precautions must be taken to ensure the specimen is not contaminated. Metal-free urine collection procedures must be followed. Refrigeration is preferred over chemical methods of preservation.

Specimen collection procedures for chromium require special specimen collection tubes, rigorous attention to ultraclean specimen collection and handling procedures, and analysis in an ultraclean facility. Unless all of these precautions are taken, elevated urine chromium results may be an incidental and misleading finding.

Clinical Reference

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Toxicology profile for chromium. September 2012. Accessed 11/06/2020. Available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp7.pdf
2. Rifai N, Horwath AR, Wittwer CT, eds: Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. Elsevier; 2017
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) criteria for a recommended standard occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. September 2013. Accessed 11/06/2020. Available at www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2013-128/pdfs/2013_128.pdf
4. Gianello G, Masci O, Carelli G, Vinci F, Castellino N: Occupational exposure to chromium-an assessment of environmental pollution levels and biological monitoring of exposed workers. *Ind Health*. 1998 Jan;36(1):74-77. doi: 10.2486/indhealth.36.74.

Performance

Method Description

Chromium in urine is analyzed by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) in dynamic reaction cell (DRC) mode using rhodium as an internal standard and a salt matrix calibration.(Unpublished Mayo method)

Creatinine is measured using an enzymatic method based on the determination of sarcosine from creatinine with the aid of creatininase, creatinase, and sarcosine oxidase. The liberated hydrogen peroxide is measured via a modified Trinder reaction using a colorimetric indicator.(Package insert: Creatinine plus ver 2. Roche Diagnostics; V15.0 03/2019)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Report Available

1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

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

This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. This test has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information

82495

82570

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
CRCRU	Chromium/Creat Ratio, Random, U	13464-3

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
CRETR	Creatinine, Random, U	2161-8
607759	Chromium/Creat Ratio, U	13464-3