

**Overview****Useful For**

Assessing intermediate-term glycemic control

**Method Name**

Colorimetric Rate Reaction

**NY State Available**

Yes

**Specimen****Specimen Type**

Serum

**Specimen Required****Container/Tube:****Preferred:** Serum gel**Acceptable:** Red top**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.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

0.25 mL

**Reject Due To**

Gross hemolysis	Reject
Gross icterus	Reject

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days	
	Frozen	7 days	
	Ambient	72 hours	

## Clinical and Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Fructosamine is a general term, which applies to any glycosylated protein. It is formed by the nonenzymatic reaction of glucose with the α- and ε-amino groups of proteins to form intermediate compounds called aldimines. These aldimines may dissociate or undergo an Amadori rearrangement to form stable ketoamines called fructosamines. This nonenzymatic glycosylation of specific proteins in vivo is proportional to the prevailing glucose concentration during the lifetime of the protein. Therefore, glycosylated protein measurement in the diabetic patient is felt to be a better monitor of long-term glycemic control than individual or sporadic glucose determinations. The best known of these proteins is glycosylated hemoglobin which is often measured as hemoglobin A1c, and reflects glycemic control over the past 6 to 8 weeks. In recognition of the need for a measurement that reflects intermediate-term glycemic control and was easily automated, a nonspecific test, termed fructosamine, was developed. Since albumin is the most abundant serum protein, it accounts for 80% of the glycosylated serum proteins, and thus, a high proportion of the fructosamine. Although a large portion of the color generated in the reaction is contributed by glycosylated albumin, the method will measure all proteins, each with a different half-life and different levels of glycosylation.

### Reference Values

200-285 μmol/L

### Interpretation

In general, fructosamine reflects glycemic control in diabetic patients over the previous 2 to 3 weeks. High values indicate poor control.

### Cautions

Since the assay is nonspecific, color may be generated by compounds other than glycosylated proteins. Interferences are seen from ascorbic acid (vitamin C) and elevated bilirubin values.

However, the second-generation assays have been shown to be highly specific for glycosylated proteins.

Fasting blood glucose and hemoglobin A1c are the usual and preferred means of monitoring glycemic control.

### Clinical Reference

1. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry, Edited by CA Burtis, ER Ashwood. Philadelphia, WB Saunders Company, 1999
2. Austin GE, Mullins RH, Morin LG: Non-enzymatic glycosylation of individual plasma proteins in normoglycemic and hyperglycemic patients. Clin Chem 1987;33:2220-2224
3. Schleicher ED, Mayer R, Wagner EM, Gerbitz KD: Is serum fructosamine assay specific for determination of glycosylated serum protein? Clin Chem 1988;34:320-323

## Performance

### Method Description

The fructosamine assay is a colorimetric test based on the ability of ketoamines to reduce nitroblue tetrazolium to formazan in an alkaline medium. The rate of formation of formazan is directly proportional to the concentration of fructosamine, and is measured photometrically at 546 nm. (Package insert: Roche Fructosamine reagent, Roche Diagnostics Corp., Indianapolis, IN 1999)

**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**

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 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**

82985

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
FRUCT	Fructosamine, S	15069-8

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
FRUCT	Fructosamine, S	15069-8