Test Definition: ALP
Alkaline Phosphatase, S

Overview

Useful For
Diagnosing and monitoring treatment of liver, bone, intestinal, and parathyroid diseases

Method Name
Colorimetric

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Serum

Necessary Information
Patient’s age and sex are 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.

Specimen Minimum Volume
0.25 mL

Reject Due To

| Gross hemolysis | Reject |

Specimen Stability Information

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<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Refrigerated</td>
<td>7 days</td>
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</table>

Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information

Alkaline phosphatase in serum consists of 4 structural genotypes: the liver-bone-kidney type, the intestinal type, the placental type, and the variant from the germ cells. It occurs in osteoblasts, hepatocytes, leukocytes, the kidneys, spleen, placenta, prostate, and the small intestine. The liver-bone-kidney type is particularly important.

A rise in the alkaline phosphatase occurs with all forms of cholestasis, particularly with obstructive jaundice. It is also elevated in diseases of the skeletal system, such as Paget disease, hyperparathyroidism, rickets and osteomalacia, as well as with fractures and malignant tumors. A considerable rise in the alkaline phosphatase activity is sometimes seen in children and juveniles. It is caused by increased osteoblast activity following accelerated bone growth.

Reference Values

Males

0-14 days: 83-248 U/L
15 days-<1 year: 122-469 U/L
1-<10 years: 142-335 U/L
10-<13 years: 129-417 U/L
13-<15 years: 116-468 U/L
15-<17 years: 82-331 U/L
17-<19 years: 55-149 U/L
> or =19 years: 40-129 U/L

Females

0-14 days: 83-248 U/L
15 days-<1 year: 122-469 U/L
1-<10 years: 142-335 U/L
10-<13 years: 129-417 U/L
13-<15 years: 57-254 U/L
15-<17 years: 50-117 U/L
> or =17 years: 35-104 U/L
Interpretation

Increases in serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity commonly originate from 1 or both of 2 sources: liver and bone. Consequently, serum ALP measurements are of particular interest in the investigation of 2 groups of conditions: hepatobiliary disease and bone disease associated with increased osteoblastic activity.

Serum ALP was the first enzyme to be used for the investigation of hepatic disease. The response of the liver to any form of biliary tree obstruction induces the synthesis of ALP by hepatocytes. The newly formed coenzyme is released from the cell membrane by the action of bile salts and enters the circulation to increase the enzyme activity in serum. Increase tends to be more notable (greater than 4-fold the upper reference value [URV]) in extrahepatic obstruction (eg, by stone, by cancer of the head of the pancreas) than in intrahepatic obstruction, and is greater the more complete the obstruction. Serum enzyme activities may reach 10 to 12 times the URV and usually return to baseline on surgical removal of the obstruction. A similar increase is seen in patients with advanced primary liver cancer or widespread secondary hepatic metastases. ALP increase (greater than 2-fold the URV) can predict transplant-free survival rates of patients with primary biliary cirrhosis.

Liver diseases that principally affect parenchymal cells, such as infectious hepatitis, typically show only moderately (less than 3-fold) increased or even normal serum ALP activities. Increases may also be seen as a consequence of a reaction to drug therapy, and ALT/ALP-based criteria to discriminate the type of liver injury in drug-induced hepatic toxicity have been recommended. Intestinal ALP isoenzyme, an asialoglycoprotein normally cleared by the hepatic asialoglycoprotein receptors, is often increased in patients with liver cirrhosis.

Cautions

Pediatric reference values should be used to properly interpret alkaline phosphatase values in children and adolescents.

Clinical Reference


Performance

Method Description

In the presence of magnesium and zinc ions, p-nitrophenyl phosphate is cleaved by phosphatases into phosphate and p-nitrophenol. The p-nitrophenol released is directly proportional to the catalytic alkaline phosphatase activity. It is determined by measuring the increase in absorbance. (Package insert: Roche Alkaline Phosphatase reagent, Indianapolis, IN, February 2012)

PDF Report

No
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Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed
Monday through Sunday; Continuously

Analytic Time
Same day/1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time
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 or approved by the U.S. 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
84075

LOINC® Information

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