**Overview**

**Useful For**
An aid in prognosis for patients diagnosed with heart failure
Risk-stratification of heart failure patients
An early indication of treatment failure and as a therapeutic target

**Method Name**
Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

**NY State Available**
Yes

**Specimen**

**Specimen Type**
Serum Red

**Specimen Required**
Collection Container/Tube: Red top
Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 1 mL

**Forms**
If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Cardiovascular Test Request Form](#) (T724) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**
0.2 mL

**Reject Due To**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross hemolysis</th>
<th>Reject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross lipemia</td>
<td>Reject</td>
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**Specimen Stability Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum Red</td>
<td>Frozen (preferred)</td>
<td>365 days</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
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Test Definition: GAL3
Galectin-3, S

Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
Heart failure is a complex cardiovascular disorder with a variety of etiologies and heterogeneity with respect to the clinical presentation of the patient. Heart failure is significantly increasing in prevalence with an aging population and is associated with high short- and long-term mortality rate. Over 80% of patients diagnosed and treated for acute heart failure syndromes in the emergency department are readmitted within the forthcoming year, incurring costly treatments and therapies. (1)

The development and progression of heart failure is a clinically silent process until manifestation of the disorder, which typically occurs late and irreversibly into its progression. Mechanistically, heart failure, whether due to systolic or diastolic dysfunction, is thought to progress primarily through adverse cardiac remodeling and fibrosis in response to cardiac injury and/or stress. Galectin-3 is a biomarker that appears to be actively involved in both the inflammatory and fibrotic pathways that are thought to be involved.

Galectin-3 is a carbohydrate-binding lectin whose expression is associated with inflammatory cells including macrophages, neutrophils, and mast cells. Galectin-3 has been linked to cardiovascular physiological processes including myofibroblast proliferation, tissue repair, and cardiac remodeling in the setting of heart failure. Concentrations of galectin-3 have been used to predict adverse remodeling after a variety of cardiac insults.

Reference Values
< 24 months: not established

2-17 years: < or = 25.0 ng/mL

> or = 18 years: < or = 22.1 ng/mL

Interpretation
Clinically, galectin-3 concentrations may be categorized into 3 risk categories, substantiated by results from several large chronic heart failure studies: (2-4)

< or = 17.8 ng/mL (low risk)

17.9-25.9 ng/mL (intermediate risk)

> 25.9 ng/mL (higher risk)

Results should be interpreted in the context of the individual patient presentation. Elevated galectin-3 results indicate an increased risk for adverse outcomes and signal the presence of galectin-3-mediated fibrosis and adverse remodeling. Once galectin-3 concentrations are elevated they are relatively stable over time in the absence of intervention.

Knowledge of a heart failure patient’s galectin-3 results may assist in risk stratification and lead to more aggressive management. There are no specific galectin-3 inhibitors available at this time and heart failure patients with elevated galectin-3 concentrations should be treated and monitored according to established guidelines. Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) and aldosterone antagonists are thought to be particularly effective.

A large multicenter, prospective, observational study was conducted to derive the reference intervals for galectin-3 that included 1,092 subjects between the ages of 55 and 80 years without any known cardiac disease (520 males, 572 females). (5) The 97.5th percentile of galectin-3 in that cohort was 22.1 ng/mL. Individuals with concentrations...
Test Definition: GAL3
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>22.1 ng/mL had a significant association with mortality and New York Heart Association (NYHA) classification. However, this was an older population and definitive evidence of cardiac disease was not documented.

**Cautions**

*Galectin-3 has not been shown to be useful in the acute diagnosis of heart failure, and natriuretic peptides (BNP or NT-proBNP) should be utilized for this purpose.*

Hemolysis has been shown to interfere with the galectin-3 assay due to intracellular release of galectin-3. Specimens that are visibly hemolyzed will be rejected.

Heterophile antibodies, in particular human-antimouse antibodies in human serum, may cause falsely elevated galectin-3 results. Heterophile antibodies may react with reagent immunoglobulins and subsequently interfere with in vitro immunoassays. Patients routinely exposed to animals or to animal serum products can be prone to this interference and anomalous high or low values can be observed.

Patients with high concentrations of rheumatoid factor, as well as other autoimmune disorders, may also yield falsely elevated results and should be interpreted with caution.

**Clinical Reference**


**Performance**

**Method Description**

The galectin-3 assay is a diagnostic, quantitative 2-site manual enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) validated for use in human sera. The capture monoclonal antibody (rat IgG2a) is immobilized on 96-well plates, while the detection antibody utilizes a mouse monoclonal antibody that targets the human galectin-3 protein and is conjugated with horseradish peroxidase. This is an FDA 510K-cleared in vitro diagnostic device. (Package insert: BGM Galectin-3 Assay, Nov 2014, BG Medicine, Inc., Waltham, MA)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**
Test Definition: GAL3
Galectin-3, S

Monday; 9 a.m.

Analytic Time
1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time
8 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 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
82777-Galectin-3

LOINC® Information

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<th>Test ID</th>
<th>Test Order Name</th>
<th>Order LOINC Value</th>
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