Overview

Useful For
Aiding in the diagnosis of granulosa cell tumors and mucinous epithelial ovarian tumors

Monitoring of patients with granulosa cell tumors and epithelial mucinous-type tumors of the ovary known to overexpress inhibin B

As an adjunct to follicle-stimulating hormone testing during infertility evaluation

Method Name
Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Serum

Advisory Information
For the initial evaluation of patients suspected of having a granulosa cell tumor of the ovary, order INHAB / Inhibin A and B, Tumor Marker, Serum. If the results of the profile show that either inhibin A or B are elevated, consider monitoring the patient with the individual tests, INHA / Inhibin A, Tumor Marker, Serum or INHB / Inhibin B, Serum.

Specimen Required

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Red top

Acceptable: Serum gel

Specimen Volume: 0.4 mL

Forms
If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an Oncology Test Request (T729) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume
0.2 mL

Reject Due To

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Gross lipemia</td>
<td>OK</td>
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Specimen Stability Information
Test Definition: INHB
Inhibin B, S

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Special Container</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen</td>
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**Clinical and Interpretive**

**Clinical Information**

Inhibins are heterodimeric protein hormones secreted by granulosa cells of the ovary in females and Sertoli cells of the testis in males. Inhibins selectively suppress the secretion of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and also have local paracrine actions in the gonads. The inhibins consist of a dimer of 2 homologous subunits, an alpha subunit and either a beta A or beta B subunit, to form inhibin A and inhibin B, respectively.

In females, inhibin A is primarily produced by the dominant follicle and corpus luteum, whereas inhibin B is primarily produced by small developing follicles. Serum inhibin A and B levels fluctuate during the menstrual cycle. Inhibin A is low in the early follicular phase and rises at ovulation to maximum levels in the mid-luteal phase. In contrast, inhibin B levels increase early in the follicular phase to reach a peak coincident with the onset of the mid-follicular phase decline in FSH levels. Inhibin B levels decrease in the late follicular phase. There is a short-lived peak of the hormone 2 days after the midcycle luteinizing hormone (LH) peak. Inhibin B levels remain low during the luteal phase of the cycle. The timing of the inhibin B rise suggests that it plays a role in regulation of folliculogenesis via a negative feedback on the production of FSH. At menopause, with the depletion of ovarian follicles, serum inhibin A and B decrease to very low or undetectable levels.

Inhibins seem to be complementary to cancer antigen 125 (CA 125) as an ovarian cancer marker. CA 125 is not as good of a tumor marker for mucinous and granulosa ovarian cell tumors. Inhibin shows a better performance in those 2 types of ovarian cancer.

Inhibin B has also been used as a marker of ovarian reserve. Every female is born with a specific number of follicles containing oocytes, a number that steadily and naturally declines with age. The number of follicles remaining in the ovary at any time is called the ovarian reserve. As ovarian reserve diminishes, it is increasingly more difficult for the hormones used for in vitro fertilization (IVF) to stimulate follicle development and, thus, the likelihood of successful oocyte retrieval, fertilization, and embryo transfer decreases, all leading to a lower chance of conceiving. As part of an infertility evaluation, attempts are made to estimate a woman's ovarian reserve. Tests to assess ovarian reserve...
Test Definition: INHB
Inhibin B, S

include: day 3 FSH, day 3 inhibin B, and antimullerian hormone levels. The amount of inhibin B measured in serum during the early follicular phase of the menstrual cycle (day 3) directly reflects the number of follicles in the ovary. Therefore, the higher the inhibin B, the more ovarian follicles present. The level of inhibin B that predicts a poor response to IVF treatment has not been established with this assay.

In males, inhibin B levels are higher in men with apparently normal fertility than in those with infertility and abnormal spermatogenesis. Serum inhibin B, when used in combination with FSH, is a more sensitive marker of spermatogenesis than FSH alone. However, the optimal level of inhibin B to assess male infertility has not been established.

Reference Values
Males
0-23 months: <430 pg/mL
2-4 years: <269 pg/mL
5-7 years: <184 pg/mL
8-10 years: <214 pg/mL
11-13 years: <276 pg/mL
14-17 years: <273 pg/mL
Adults: <399 pg/mL

Females
0-23 months: <111 pg/mL
2-4 years: <44 pg/mL
5-7 years: <27 pg/mL
8-10 years: <67 pg/mL
11-13 years: <120 pg/mL
14-17 years: <136 pg/mL
Premenopausal
Follicular: <139 pg/mL
Luteal: <92 pg/mL
Postmenopausal: <10 pg/mL

Interpretation
Inhibin B levels are elevated in approximately 89% to 100% of patients with granulosa cell tumors and in approximately 55% to 60% of patients with epithelial ovarian tumors. A normal inhibin B level does not rule out a
mucinous or granulosa ovarian cell tumor. Testing for inhibin A in these cases might be informative. Consider ordering INHAB / Inhibin A and B, Tumor Marker, Serum.

For monitoring of patients with known ovarian cancer, inhibin B levels decrease to very low or undetectable levels shortly after surgery. Elevations of inhibin B after treatment are suggestive of residual, recurrent, or progressive disease. In patients with recurrent disease, inhibin B elevation seems to be present earlier than clinical symptoms. Patients in remission show normal levels of inhibin B.

For infertility evaluation, an inhibin B level in the postmenopausal range is suggestive of a diminished or depleted ovarian reserve.

Cautions
Inhibin values fluctuate during the menstrual cycle. Inhibin levels in premenopausal women should be interpreted with caution.

Do not interpret serum inhibin levels as absolute evidence of the presence or the absence of malignant disease. Use results in conjunction with information from the clinical evaluation of the patient and other diagnostic procedures.

Tumor markers are not specific for malignancy and values may vary by testing methodology. The same method should be used to serially monitor patients.

Some patients who have been exposed to animal antigens, either in the environment or as part of treatment or imaging procedures, may have circulating anti-animal antibodies present. These antibodies may interfere with the assay reagents to produce unreliable results.

Clinical Reference


Performance

Method Description
Inhibin B Gen II ELISA is an enzymatically amplified 3-step "sandwich" assay. Sample is incubated in wells that have
been coated with anti-activin B antibody. After incubation and washing, the wells are incubated with biotinylated anti-inhibin detection antibody. After a second incubation and washing step, the wells are incubated with streptavidin labeled with the enzyme horseradish peroxidase. Antibody-analyte complex is detected by dual wavelength absorbance measurement after addition of the tetramethylbenzidine substrate. The absorbance measured is directly proportional to the concentration of inhibin B in the samples.(Package insert: Inhibin B Gen II ELISA kit, Beckman Coulter, Inc. 03/2018)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:00 a.m.

**Analytic Time**

Same day/1 day

**Maximum Laboratory Time**

6 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

3 months

**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**

83520

**LOINC® Information**

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<th>Order LOINC Value</th>
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