Overview

Useful For
Confirmation of intravascular hemolysis

Method Name
Nephelometry

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Serum

Specimen Required
Container/Tube:

Preferred: Serum gel
Acceptable: Red top

Specimen Volume: 1 mL

Specimen Minimum Volume
0.5 mL

Reject Due To

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross hemolysis</th>
<th>OK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross lipemia</td>
<td>Reject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross icterus</td>
<td>OK</td>
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</table>

Specimen Stability Information

<table>
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<tr>
<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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<td>28 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frozen</td>
<td>28 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ambient</td>
<td>14 days</td>
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Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information
Haptoglobin is an immunoglobulin-like plasma protein that binds hemoglobin. The haptoglobin-hemoglobin complex
is removed from plasma by macrophages and the hemoglobin is catabolized. When the hemoglobin-binding capacity of haptoglobin is exceeded, hemoglobin passes through the renal glomeruli, resulting in hemoglobinuria.

Chronic intravascular hemolysis causes persistently low haptoglobin concentration. Regular strenuous exercise may cause sustained low haptoglobin, presumably from low-grade hemolysis. Low serum haptoglobin may also be due to severe liver disease.

Neonatal plasma or serum specimens usually do not contain measurable haptoglobin; adult levels are achieved by 6 months.

Increase in plasma haptoglobin concentration occurs as an acute-phase reaction. Levels may appear to be increased in conditions such as burns and nephrotic syndrome. An acute-phase response may be confirmed and monitored by assay of other acute-phase reactants such as alpha-1-antitrypsin and C-reactive protein.

**Reference Values**
30-200 mg/dL

**Interpretation**
Absence of plasma haptoglobin may therefore indicate intravascular hemolysis. However, congenital anhaptoglobinemia is common, particularly in African-Americans. For this reason, it may be difficult or impossible to interpret a single measurement of plasma haptoglobin. If the assay value is low, the test should be repeated after 1 to 2 weeks following an acute episode of hemolysis. If all the plasma haptoglobin is removed following an episode of intravascular hemolysis, and if hemolysis ceases, the haptoglobin concentration should return to normal in a week.

Low levels of plasma haptoglobin may indicate intravascular hemolysis.

**Cautions**
Low haptoglobin is normal for the first 3 to 6 months of life.

Haptoglobin is an acute-phase reactant and increases with inflammation or tissue necrosis.

**Clinical Reference**

**Performance**

**Method Description**

**PDF Report**
No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**
Monday through Friday; 3 p.m.
Analytic Time
1 day

Maximum Laboratory Time
2 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, approved or is exempt 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
83010

LOINC® Information

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<td>Haptoglobin, S</td>
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