

Overview

Useful For

Detecting exposure to cadmium, a toxic heavy metal, as a part of occupational monitoring

Special Instructions

- [Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#)

Method Name

Triple Quadrupole Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS/MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Whole blood

Specimen Required

**Patient Preparation:** High concentrations of gadolinium and iodine are known to potentially interfere with most inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry-based metal tests. If either gadolinium- or iodine-containing contrast media has been administered, a specimen **should not be collected for 96 hours**.

Supplies:

- Metal Free EDTA 3 mL Tube (T989)
- Metal Free B-D Tube (EDTA), 6 mL (T183)

Container/Tube:

**Preferred:** Royal blue-top BD vacutainer with EDTA blood collection tube (3 mL) (BD catalog no. 367777) (T989)  
**Acceptable:** Royal blue-top BD Vacutainer Plus with EDTA blood collection tube (6 mL) (BD catalog no. 368381) (T183)

**Specimen Volume:** 1 mL

Collection Instructions:

- See [Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#) for complete instructions.
- Send whole blood specimen in original collection tube. **Do not aliquot.**

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.25 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
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Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Whole blood	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

The toxicity of cadmium resembles the other heavy metals (arsenic, mercury, and lead) in that it attacks the kidney; kidney dysfunction with proteinuria with slow onset (over a period of years) is the typical presentation.

Breathing the fumes of cadmium vapors leads to nasal epithelial deterioration and pulmonary congestion resembling chronic emphysema.

The most common source of chronic exposure comes from spray painting organic-based paints without a protective breathing apparatus; auto repair mechanics represent a susceptible group for cadmium toxicity. Tobacco smoke is another common source of cadmium exposure.

Reference Values

< 5.0 mcg/L  
Reference values apply to all ages.

Interpretation

Normal blood cadmium is less than 5.0 mcg/L, with most results in the range of 0.5 to 2.0 mcg/L.

Acute toxicity will be observed when the blood level exceeds 50 mcg/L.

Cautions

No significant cautionary statements

Clinical Reference

1. Moreau T, Orssaud G, Lellouch J, Claude JR, Juguet B, Festy B. Blood cadmium levels in a general male population with special reference to smoking. Arch Environ Health. 1983;38(3):163-167

2. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, US Department of Labor: Cadmium . Accessed December 3, 2024. Available at [www.osha.gov/cadmium](http://www.osha.gov/cadmium)

3. Strathmann FG, Blum LM. Toxic elements. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:chap 44

Performance

Method Description

The metal of interest is analyzed by triple quadrupole inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Saturday

Report Available

1 to 3 days

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

Fees & 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 account representative. 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. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information

82300

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
CDOB	Cadmium Occupational Monitor, B	5609-3

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
89539	Cadmium Occupational Monitor, B	5609-3