

Overview

**Useful For**  
Confirmation of intravascular hemolysis

**Method Name**  
Nephelometry

**NY State Available**  
Yes

Specimen

**Specimen Type**  
Serum

**Specimen Required**  
**Supplies:** Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)  
**Collection Container/Tube:**  
**Preferred:** Serum gel  
**Acceptable:** Red top  
**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial  
**Specimen Volume:**1 mL  
**Collection Instructions:** Centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**  
0.5 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	Reject
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	14 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

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**Clinical & 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 indicate intravascular hemolysis. However, congenital anhaptoalbuminemia 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**

1. Shih AW, McFarlane A, Verhovsek M. Haptoglobin testing in hemolysis: measurement and interpretation. *Am J Hematol*. 2014;89(4):443-447. doi:10.1002/ajh.23623
2. di Masi A, De Simone G, Ciaccio C, D'Orso S, Coletta M, Ascenzi P. Haptoglobin: From hemoglobin scavenging to human health. *Mol Aspects Med*. 2020;73:100851. doi:10.1016/j.mam.2020.100851
3. Rifai N. *Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine*. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2022:1584

## Performance

### Method Description

In this Siemens Nephelometer II method, the light scattered onto the antigen-antibody complexes is measured. The intensity of the measured scattered light is proportional to the amount of antigen-antibody complexes in the sample under certain conditions. If the antibody volume is kept constant, the signal behaves proportionally to the antigen volume.

A reference curve is generated by a standard with a known antigen content on which the scattered light signals of the samples can be evaluated and calculated as an antigen concentration. Antigen-antibody complexes are formed when a sample containing antigen and the corresponding antiserum are put into a cuvette. A light beam is generated with a light emitting diode (LED), which is transmitted through the cuvette. The light is scattered onto the immuno-complexes that are present. Antigen and antibody are mixed in the initial measurement, but no complex is formed yet. An antigen-antibody complex is formed in the final measurement.

The result is calculated by subtracting value of the final measurement from the initial measurement. The distribution of intensity of the scattered light depends on the ratio of the particle size of the antigen-antibody complexes to the radiated wavelength.(Instruction manual: Siemens Nephelometer II Operations Instruction Manual; Siemens, Inc; Version 2.4, 07/2019; Addendum to the Instruction Manual 2.3, 08/2017)

### PDF Report

No

### Day(s) Performed

Monday through Friday

### 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 has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US 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

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
HAPT	Haptoglobin, S	46127-7

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
HAPT	Haptoglobin, S	46127-7