

Beta-Trace Protein, Body Fluid

Test ID: BTP

Useful for:

Determining the presence of cerebrospinal fluid in body fluids

Methods:

Nephelometry

Reference Values:

Beta-trace protein concentration <5 mg/L is negative for cerebrospinal fluid

Beta-trace protein concentration 5-7 mg/L is indeterminate for presence of cerebrospinal fluid

Beta-trace protein concentration >7 mg/L is consistent with the presence of cerebrospinal fluid

Specimen Requirements:

Specimen Type: Body fluid

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Sterile container, syringe (with needle removed), test tube, or microtube

Acceptable: Plain cotton swab, pledget, gauze, or facial tissue

Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. If submitting a syringe, remove the needle. Add cap to end of syringe.
2. If direct collection is not feasible, specimen may be collected using a plain cotton swab, pledget, gauze or facial tissue.
 - a. For gauze or facial tissue: circle area on the gauze where specimen was collected.
 - b. For swab, pledget, gauze or facial tissue: place in a small container (plain test tube or sterile container).
3. **Do not** collect specimen with a culture swab.
4. **Do not** add any additional liquid other than source to the swab or gauze.
5. **Do not** collect or send swab or gauze specimens in containers with additional liquids or additives.

Additional Information:

1. Although results may be obtainable on smaller specimens (perhaps as little as 0.05 mL, depending on the protein concentrations and percentage of spinal fluid in the specimen), reliable results are best obtained with an adequate specimen volume.
2. Specimens collected with additives such as microbiology media (eg, Stuart or Amies liquid medium) or TransFix/EDTA (used for analyses in flow cytometry) yield uninterpretable results and will be rejected.

Minimum Volume: See Specimen Required

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Body Fluid	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days
	Ambient	7 days
	Frozen	30 days

Cautions:

Interferences by rheumatoid factors are generally suppressed by the use of the N BTP (beta trace protein) Supplementary Reagent.

Low volume of cerebrospinal fluid specimens may reduce the beta trace protein recovery.

CPT Code:

83883

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Friday

Report Available: 1 to 3 days

Questions

Contact Amy Ennis, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.