

ALPHA
FETOPROTEIN
(NON-
PREGNANCY),
PLASMA/ SERUM

Orderable - AFPN

Turn Around Time: 4 hours

Alternate Name(s):

Alphafetoprotein
AFP

Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
4.5 mL Light Green top (Li-Heparin) Vacutainer tube	0-2 years: 0.5 mL Light Green top Microtainer 2-10 years: 3 mL Light Green top Vacutainer tube
Red, Gold, or Lavender (EDTA) top tubes are also acceptable	

Collection Information:

Minimum volume of plasma or serum required is 700 µL for adult samples or 200 µL for pediatric samples.

Reference Ranges:

> 5 years: ≤ 7 µg/L

Literature indicates that from birth to 1 month of age, expected AFP values are up to 18,964 µg/L for girls and up to 16,387 µg/L for boys. From 1 month to 12 months of age, expected values are up to 77 µg/L for girls and up to 28 µg/L for boys. The AFP level continues to fall slowly until adult levels are reached at about 5 years of age.

Interpretive Comments:

Used as a tumour marker for non-seminomatous germ cell tumours and hepatocellular carcinoma. Not recommended for cancer screening in the general population.



Laboratory:
Core Lab




Requisition:
GENERAL LABORATORY
REQUISITION



Method of Analysis:
Roche
Electrochemiluminescence



Test Schedule:
As required



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Levels can also be increased in other diseases such as acute viral hepatitis, chronic active hepatitis, and liver cirrhosis.

Alpha fetoprotein is increased in pregnancy and is a part of prenatal maternal serum screening for Down syndrome and open neural tube defects (see Maternal Serum Screen).

Comments:

Biotin may interfere with this test. Samples should not be taken from patients receiving high biotin doses (i.e. > 5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours after the last biotin administration.