

PROTOPORPHYRIN,
WHOLE BLOOD

Orderable - PORERC

Turnaround Time: 14 days

Alternate Name(s):

Free protoporphyrin
Erythrocyte protoporphyrin

Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
2 x 4 mL Lavender (EDTA) top Vacutainer tubes	2-10 years: 2 x 2 mL Lavender (EDTA) top Vacutainer tubes
Red, Gold, or Light Green (Li-heparin) top tubes are NOT acceptable.	

Collection Information:

Careset includes 1 Lavender top tube for CBC (hematocrit) and 1 Lavender top tube for protoporphyrin test. Blood for protoporphyrin test should be collected in a foil-covered tube to protect from light.

Minimum volume of whole blood required for protoporphyrin test is 2 mL for adult or pediatric samples.

Reference Ranges:

Free protoporphyrin
0.4-1.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ErCs
Reference interval is for adults only and is not available for individuals 17 years of age or younger.

Interpretive Comments:

Measurement of free erythrocyte protoporphyrins (FEP) includes protoporphyrin IX and zinc protoporphyrin. Zinc protoporphyrin is elevated in iron deficiency and lead



Laboratory:
Core Lab



Requisition:
GENERAL LABORATORY
REQUISITION



Method of Analysis:
Fluorescence
Spectrophotometry



Test Schedule:
Referred out Monday-
Thursday



Referred Out Location:
[In-Common Laboratories](#)



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poisoning.

Protoporphyrin IX is elevated in erythrocytic protoporphyria. FEP >3 times the upper limit of normal is suggestive of erythrocytic protoporphyria.

Special Processing:

Hematocrit must be sent to ICL with sample to allow calculation of result.

Keep specimen protected from light.

Storage and Shipment:

Store and ship tube for protoporphyrin test frozen and protected from light.