

LITHIUM SERUM

Orderable - LI

Turn Around Time: 4 hours

STAT: 1 hour

Alternate Name(s):

Li

Specimen:

Adult	Pediatric
5 mL Gold top Vacutainer tube	0-2 years: 0.5 mL Red Microtainer 2-10 years: 2 mL Red top Vacutainer tube

Collection Information:

Collect blood aseptically in a Vacutainer tube.

Reference Ranges:

0.60-1.20 mmol/L
Toxic: >1.5 mmol/L - <i>CRITICAL VALUE to be phoned to Nurse or Physician immediately:</i>

Interpretive Comments:

Indicated in management of acute manic episodes in patients with bipolar affective disorders. A 12-hour level of >1.4 mmol/L should be cautiously regarded as serious and repeated measurements should be obtained to affirm or rule out impending lithium intoxication.

Comments:

The light metal, lithium, was discovered in mineral compounds, by August Arfvedson in 1817 and electrolytically purified by Sir Humphrey Davy (also, independently by Brandé) in 1818. Lithium alters the intraneuronal metabolism of catecholamines by



Laboratory:
Core Lab




Requisition:
GENERAL LABORATORY
REQUISITION



Method of Analysis:
Spectrophotometric
method



Test Schedule:
As required



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an unknown mechanism. It is used to suppress the manic phase of manic-depressive psychosis. Toxicity from Lithium salts leads to ataxia, slurred speech and confusion.