MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: ETGS

Ethyl Glucuronide Screen, Random, Urine

Overview

Useful For
Screening for drug abuse involving alcohol

Method Name
Immunoassay

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Urine

Ordering Guidance
For situations where chain of custody is required, a Chain of Custody Kit (T282) is available. For chain-of-custody testing, order ETGX / Ethyl Glucuronide Confirmation, Chain of Custody, Random, Urine.

Specimen Required
Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)
Collection Container/Tube: Plastic urine container
Submission Container/Tube: Plastic, 5 mL tube
Specimen Volume: 2 mL
Collection Instructions:
1. Collect a random urine specimen.
2. No preservative.

Forms
If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Therapeutics Test Request (T831) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume
0.5 mL

Reject Due To
All specimens will be evaluated at Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container

Urine	Ambient	28 days	
	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Ethyl glucuronide is a direct metabolite of ethanol that is formed by enzymatic conjugation of ethanol with glucuronic acid. Alcohol in urine is normally detected for only a few hours, whereas ethyl glucuronide can be detected in the urine for 1 to 3 days.

This procedure uses immunoassay reagents that are designed to produce a negative result when no drugs are present in a natural (ie, unadulterated) specimen of urine; the assay is designed to have a high true-negative rate. Like all immunoassays, it can have false-positives due to cross-reactivity with natural chemicals and drugs other than those they were designed to detect. The immunoassay can also have false negatives due to the antibody's ability to cross-react with different drugs in the class being screened for.

Reference Values

Negative
Screening cutoff concentration: 500 ng/mL

Interpretation

This assay only provides a preliminary analytical test result. A more specific alternative method (ie, liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry) must be used to obtain a confirmed analytical result. A positive result using the ethyl glucuronide screen indicates only the potential presence of ethyl glucuronide and does not necessarily correlate with the extent of physiological and psychological effects.

Cautions

Care should be taken when interpreting results since there are many factors (eg, fluid intake and other biologic factors) that may influence a urine test result. It is possible that substances other than those investigated in the specificity study may interfere with the test and cause false-positive or negative results.

Clinical Reference

1. Schmitt G, Aderjan R, Keller T, Wu M. Ethyl glucuronide: an unusual ethanol metabolite in humans. Synthesis, analytical data, and determination in serum and urine. J Anal Toxicol. 1995;19(2):91-94. doi:10.1093/jat/19.2.91
2. Dahl H, Stephanson N, Beck O, Helander A. Comparison of urinary excretion characteristics of ethanol and ethyl glucuronide. J Anal Toxicol. 2002;26:201-104. doi:10.1093/jat/26.4.201
3. Wurst FM, Skipper GE, Weinmann W. Ethyl glucuronide--the direct ethanol metabolite on the threshold from science to routine use. Addiction. 2003;98 Suppl 2:51-61. doi:10.1046/j.1359-6357.2003.00588.x
4. Zimmer H, Schmitt G, Aderjan R. Preliminary immunochemical test for the determination of ethyl glucuronide in serum and urine: comparison of screening method results with gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. J Anal Toxicol. 2002;26(1):11-16. doi: 10.1093/jat/26.1.11
5. Weinmann W, Schaefer P, Thierauf A, Schreiber A, Wurst FM. Confirmatory analysis of ethylglucuronide in urine by liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization/tandem mass spectrometry according to forensic guidelines. J Am Soc Mass Spectrom. 2004;15(2):188-193. doi:10.1016/j.jasms.2003.10.010

6. Langman LJ, Bechtel LK, Holstege CP. Clinical toxicology. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CAD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:454

Performance

Method Description

This assay is a homogeneous enzyme immunoassay technique. The assay will be performed semiquantitatively. The assay is based on competition between free drug in the urine sample, and a drug labeled with the enzyme glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase for a fixed amount of specific antibody binding sites. Active enzyme converts nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD[+]) to NADH, which results in an absorbance change that can be measured spectrophotometrically at 340 nm.(Package insert: ETG. Immunalysis; 04/2019)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Saturday

Report Available

Same day/1 to 2 days

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

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 was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information

80307

LOINC® Information

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Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
ETGS	Ethyl Glucuronide Screen, U	58375-7

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
63420	Ethyl Glucuronide Screen, U	58375-7