

Overview

Useful For

Detecting toxic exposure in whole blood specimens

Special Instructions

- [Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#)

Method Name

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Whole blood

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation: High concentrations of gadolinium and iodine are known to interfere with most metal tests. If either gadolinium- or iodine-containing contrast media has been administered, a specimen should not be collected for 96 hours.

Supplies: Metal Free B-D Tube (EDTA), 6 mL (T183)

Container/Tube: Royal blue top (EDTA) plastic trace element blood collection tube

Specimen Volume: Full tube

Collection Instructions:

1. See [Metals Analysis Specimen Collection and Transport](#) for complete instructions.
2. Send specimen in original tube. **Do not aliquot.**

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.3 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Whole blood	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Thallium is odorless, tasteless and found in trace amounts in the earth's crust. It is used in the manufacturing of electronic devices, switches, and closures. It had previously been used in rodenticides. The greatest exposure can occur from eating food (eg, fruits and vegetables) since it's easily taken up by plants through the roots. Cigarette smoking is also a source of exposure. Accidental ingestion may lead to vomiting, diarrhea, and leg pains, followed by a severe and sometimes fatal sensorimotor polyneuropathy. Peripheral neuropathy may occur within 1 week of exposure, while hair loss begins and continues for several weeks. Gastrointestinal symptoms, including pain, diarrhea, and constipation have also been reported in acute ingestion, along with myalgias, pleuritic chest pain, insomnia, optic neuritis, hypertension, cardiac abnormalities, Mees lines, and liver injury. Most thallium is excreted in the urine, can be found within an hour after exposure, and can be detected as long as two months after exposure.

Reference Values

0-17 years: Not established
> or =18 years: <2 ng/mL

Interpretation

Normal thallium blood concentrations are less than 1 ng/mL.

Significant exposure is associated with thallium concentrations in blood greater than 10 ng/mL and as high as 50 ng/mL. The long-term sequelae from such an exposure is poor.

Patients exposed to high doses of thallium (>1 g) present clinically with alopecia (hair loss), peripheral neuropathy, seizures, and kidney failure

Cautions

No significant cautionary statements

Clinical Reference

1. Pelcloval D, Urbanl P, Ridsonl P, et al. Two-year follow-up of two patients after severe thallium intoxication. *Hum Exper Toxicol*. 2009;28:263-272
2. Zhao G, Ding M, Zhang B, et al. Clinical manifestations and management of acute thallium poisoning. *Eur Neurol*. 2008;60:292-297
3. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: Toxicological profile for thallium. US Department of Health and Human Services; July 1992. Available at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp54.pdf
4. Strathmann FG, Blum LM. Toxic elements. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, eds. *Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine*. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:455.e55

Performance

Method Description

The metal of interest is analyzed by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Tuesday, Friday

Report Available

2 to 5 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

83018

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
TLB	Thallium, B	5743-0

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
8149	Thallium, B	5743-0