
Catecholamine Fractionation, Free, Plasma

Test ID: CATP

Explanation:

Due to instrument issues, CATP will be made non-orderable on the effective date. An update will be provided when normal testing resumes. The recommended alternative test is considered the gold standard testing for the diagnosis and follow up of pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas. The only cases that could benefit potentially from plasma catecholamine testing would be patients with extremely rare tumors that are suspected to produce solely, or predominately dopamine; this could be addressed by ordering urine metanephrines with included 3-methoxytyramine, the chief dopamine metabolite (Test ID: META3).

Note: The recommended alternative test requires a different collection tube than CATP. Samples received in Catecholamine tubes after the effective date cannot be tested.

Recommended Alternative Test:

Metanephrines, Fractionated, Free, Plasma

Test ID: PMET

Methodology:

Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

Reference Values:

METANEPHRINE, FREE
<0.50 nmol/L

NORMETANEPHRINE, FREE
<0.90 nmol/L

Specimen Requirements:

Patient Preparation: Use of an Epi-pen within the last 7 days may produce inaccurate results

Container/Tube: Lavender top (EDTA)

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 1 mL

Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot plasma into a plastic vial within 2 hours of collection.

Minimum Volume: 0.3 mL

Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Plasma EDTA	Frozen (Preferred)	14 days
	Refrigerated	7 days

CPT Code:

83835

Day(s) Performed: Monday through Saturday **Report Available:** 2 to 4 days

Questions

Contact Joshua Yang, Laboratory Technologist Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.