

## Bile Acids Malabsorption Panel, Serum and Feces

**Test ID:** BAMRP

**Useful for:**

Aiding in the evaluation of patients suspected of having chronic diarrhea symptoms due to bile acid malabsorption

**Profile Information:**

| Test ID | Reporting Name               | Available Separately | Always Performed |
|---------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 7AC4    | 7AC4, Bile Acid Synthesis, S | Yes                  | Yes              |
| BAMRF   | Bile Acid, Malabsorption, F  | No                   | Yes              |

**Methods:**

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

**Reference Values:**

BILE ACID MALABSORPTION, FECAL:

> or =18 years:

Sum of cholic acid and chenodeoxycholic acid: < or =10.0%

7AC4, BILE ACID SYNTHESIS, SERUM:

2.5-63.2 ng/mL

Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years of age.

**Specimen Requirements. Both feces and serum are required:**

**Specimen Type:** Serum

**Preferred Collection Tube:** Serum gel

**Acceptable Collection Tube:** Red top

**Submission Container:** Plastic Vial

**Specimen Volume:** 1 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Centrifuge and aliquot 1 mL of serum into a plastic vial.
2. Send specimen frozen.

**Minimum Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Specimen Type:** Feces

**Supplies:** Stool Container; Small (Random), 4 oz. (T288)

**Container:** Fecal container

**Specimen Volume:** 5 g

**Collection Instructions:** 1. Collect a loose, unpreserved, random fecal specimen.  
2. Freeze immediately

**Minimum Volume:** 5 g

**Specimen Stability Information:**

| Specimen Type | Temperature        | Time     |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| Fecal         | Frozen             | 30 days  |
| Serum         | Frozen (preferred) | 90 days  |
|               | Ambient            | 24 hours |
|               | Refrigerated       | 72 hours |

**Interpretation:**

When serum 7alpha-hydroxy-4-cholesten-3-one results are above 52.5 ng/mL and primary fecal bile acid results are above 10%, this test is 66% sensitive and 95% specific for bile acid malabsorption.

Pharmacological treatment with bile acid sequestrants has been shown to improve symptoms in some patients.

**Cautions:**

Bile acids are not stable in fecal specimens. Specimens must be kept frozen immediately after collection.

Bile acids in a random stool sample should only be used in combination with a result of fasting serum 7alpha-hydroxy-4-cholesten-3-one.

**CPT Code:**

82542 x2

**Day(s) Performed:** Wednesday

**Report Available:** 2 to 9 days

**Questions**

Contact Nancy Benson, Laboratory Resource Coordinator at 800-533-1710.