

## **Normal Lab Values and Explanations**

Glucose 65-99 mg/dL

Glucose measures the amount of sugar in your blood. Glucose is the primary energy source in your body. Insulin (a natural hormone produced by the pancreas) controls how glucose is used in your body. When the pancreas cannot produce enough insulin then blood levels of glucose rise, and over time, high blood glucose will lead to diseases of the kidneys, eyes, heart and circulatory system, and the nervous system. This test is used to help detect diabetes and other glucose metabolism disorders.

## **BUN (Urea Nitrogen)**

5-26 mg/dL

BUN or Blood Urea Nitrogen is the measurement of the amount of urea nitrogen and creatinine in the blood. Urea nitrogen and creatinine are waste products of protein and muscle metabolism. The kidneys filter these waste products.

#### Creatinine

.57 - 1.00 mg/dL

Creatinine is an important compound produced by the body; it combines with phosphate to produce creatine phosphate. Creatine phosphate is a high energy compound use by skeletal muscle for contraction. The kidneys filter this from your system, thus measuring creatinine provides an indication of kidney function.

Sodium 135 - 145 mmol/L

Sodium is a main "electrolyte" along with potassium and chloride. It is involved in keeping the salt and water balance in your body.

Potassium 3.5 - 5.2 mmol/L

Potassium is an "electrolyte". It is an essential electrical conductor and important in maintaining and regulating muscle and cell activity.

Chloride 97 - 108 mmol/L

Chloride is an "electrolyte" controlled by the kidneys and can sometimes be affected by diet. An "electrolyte" is involved in maintaining acid-base balance, and helps to regulate blood volume and artery pressure.



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#### Calcium

8.7 - 10.2 mg/dL

Calcium is a mineral controlled by the kidneys and the parathyroid glands. (It is the most abundant mineral in the body with 98% found in the skeleton.) It is important for blood clotting, nerve and muscle function, and cell reproduction activity.

### **Phosphorus**

2.5 - 4.5 mg/dL

Phosphorus is a mineral controlled by the kidney and the parathyroid gland. Approximately 85% of phosphorus in the body can be found in bones and teeth and roughly 10% circulates in the bloodstream. It is important for blood clotting, nerve and muscle function and cell metabolic activity.

#### **Total Protein**

 $6.0 - 8.5 \, g/dL$ 

Proteins in your blood serve to maintain the normal blood volume and water content in tissues. In addition, proteins help to maintain the normal acid-base balance in the blood. An elevated protein level may be the result of dehydration, or in more severe circumstances, an indicator of kidney or liver disease.

#### Albumin

3.5 - 5.5 g/dL

Albumin is the most abundant protein in the blood. Albumin's major function is to maintain normal blood volume and water content in tissues and transport vitamins, minerals and hormones through the body. The albumin level helps determine the functional ability of the liver and kidneys. A decreased albumin level is seen in liver and kidney disease. An increase albumin level can be associated with dehydration. Please note: Total Proteins minus Albumin equals Globulin. Globulin is a generic classification of all proteins that are not albumin.

### **Total Bilirubin**

0.0 - 1.2 mb/dL

Bilirubin is a substance produced by the normal breakdown of red blood cells in your system. This orange-yellow pigment is usually excreted from the liver and is a major component of bile. When too much bilirubin is in the blood it stains the fatty tissue in the skin and causes the skin to look yellow. This condition is known as jaundice.



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## **Alkaline Phosphatase**

25 - 150 IU/L

Alkaline phosphatase is an enzyme found in the liver and in the bone. It is released into the blood when rapid bone growth, bone destruction, or liver cell damage occurs.

LD (LDH)

100 - 250 IU/L

LD (LDH) is an enzyme found in many body tissues. Any tissue damage can result in a higher level of LDH.

GGT 0 - 60 IU/L

GGT or Gamma Glutamyl Transferase is an enzyme present in the liver with lower levels found in the blood. When the liver becomes damaged or obstructed the blood level of GGT rises. Elevated GGT is often seen in obstruction of the bile duct and chronic alcohol abuse. Recent alcohol consumption can cause a temporary elevation in GGT.

AST (GOT)

0 - 40 IU/L

AST (GOT) is a non-organ specific enzyme found in the liver, heart and skeletal muscles. Significant elevations of AST in the blood are indicative of damage to these muscles and organs.

ALT (GPT)

0 - 40 IU/L

ALT (GPT) is an enzyme found in the liver and heart muscle. It is released into the blood stream when either of these organs is damaged, thereby helping to diagnose and monitor disorders associated with them.

**Uric Acid** 

2.4 - 8.2 mg/dL

Uric Acid is a by-product from the breakdown of purine (a nucleic acid which is a building block of DNA) in foods and cells. Uric Acid is made in the liver and excreted by the kidneys. This test is used to diagnose gout (a type of arthritis) and other kidney disorders.



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#### **Total Iron**

35 - 155 ug/dL

Iron is critical to the building of hemoglobin within new red blood cells. Hemoglobin is responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body. Too much or too little iron can be indicative of a problem that should be evaluated by your physician.

## **Triglycerides**

0-149 mg/dL

Triglycerides are the chemical form of fat as it moves through the bloodstream. Triglycerides are either ingested as fats in foods, or made by the body from other energy producing nutrients like carbohydrates. Calories taken in at a meal that are not immediately used are converted to Triglycerides and stored in adipose tissues as fat. Hormones regulate the release of triglycerides from adipose cells to meet the body's energy needs between meals. Triglycerides alone are not considered an independent risk factor for heart disease but in combination with high cholesterol level will put you at an increased risk for heart disease and stroke.

#### **Total Cholesterol**

100 - 200 mg/dL

Cholesterol is a fatty substance necessary for the proper function of every cell and has two major forms—HDL and LDL. It is carried through the blood stream by protein and is one of the building blocks for many hormones in the body. A diet high in saturated fats, lack of exercise and a family history of high cholesterol are all possible reasons for having high cholesterol. Excess cholesterol produces plaque and when plaque builds up along artery walls and restricts blood flow it is known as arteriosclerosis, or "hardening of the arteries". Depending on the arteries that are blocked, one may have a heart attack, stroke or poor circulation in the legs. It is recommended that you have a cholesterol level of under 200 mg/dL.



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### **HDL Cholesterol**

39.01 - 100 mg/dL

HDL, or high density lipoprotein, is considered the "Good" form of cholesterol because it removes the bad cholesterol by bringing it to the liver for excretion. This process prevents plaque from building up in your blood vessels. Therefore, HDL helps to protect against the development of coronary heart disease and stroke. Studies show the higher your HDL value the lower the incidence of heart disease.

### LDL (Calculated)

0 - 100 mg/dL

LDL, or low-density lipoprotein, is one component of your blood cholesterol. LDL carries cholesterol through your bloodstream to help your body build cell walls and produce important hormones. When there is too much LDL, it sticks to blood vessel walls and blocks the flow of blood. This can lead to heart attacks and strokes, thus LDL cholesterol is the "Bad" cholesterol.