

# Free T3

## Synonyms

Triiodothyronine

## Clinical Indication

Free T3 levels are useful in the differential diagnosis of hyperthyroidism and non-thyroidal illness; TSH levels may be suppressed in both conditions with normal or raised free T4. Free T3 is not helpful and may be misleading in diagnosis of hypothyroidism. Free T3 may also be misleading in monitoring T3 replacement because of wide variations that depend on the interval between dose and sampling.

Patients on anti-thyroid treatment may require free T3 levels to identify persistent drug treatment thyrotoxicosis due to isolated T3 excess.

Samples referred to Basildon Hospital for Free T3 analysis from other Hospitals should be packaged in accordance with our transportation policy and will be assumed to have met the specific criteria of the referring laboratory.

## Part of Profile / See Also

Thyroid Function Tests

## Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

## Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request. Free T3 is automatically measured if TSH is suppressed.

## Turnaround Time

Same Day (Monday – Friday)

## Patient Preparation

None required.

## Sample Requirements

### Specimen Type

Serum

### Volume

0.5 ml

### Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin)



Paediatric green top (lithium-heparin)

## Reference Range & Units

Age	Free T3 (pmol/L)
0 to 20 days	N/A
>20 days	3.8 - 60

Reference: Beckman method insert

## Interferences

## Interpretation & Clinical

Interpretive comment will be provided based on clinical information and the

**Decision Value (if applicable)**

results.

**References**

**Test code**

FT3

**Lab Handling**

Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C

