







Lactate Dehydrogenase (tumour marker)

Synonyms	LDH
Clinical Indication	<p>Serum LDH is increased in tissue damage and used to identify haemolytic anaemia. Mild to moderate increases usually reflect tissue destruction but very high levels (>2,000 IU/L) may be seen in patients with lymphoma or leukaemia and in certain cancers of ovary or testis. Some solid tumours (e.g. lung, colon, stomach) may occasionally produce directly very high levels of LDH.</p> <p>Monitoring of therapy in lymphoma or leukaemia as a marker of cell proliferation. LDH may also be used as a marker in some cases of ovarian and testicular germ cell tumours and assessment of melanoma and renal cell carcinoma.</p>
Part of Profile / See Also	
Request Form	Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request if specific criteria met.
Turnaround Time	Same day
Patient Preparation	None required
Sample Requirements	
Specimen Type	Serum and plasma
Volume	1 ml
Acceptable Containers	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Yellow top (SST) tube</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Green top (lithium-heparin) tube</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin)</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">paediatric green top (lithium-heparin)</div> </div> </div> <p>Plain serum samples may also be used.</p>

Reference Range & Units

Age	LDH (u/L)
0 - 5 days	<1732
6 days - 6 months	<975
7 months - 6 years	<615
>6 years and the adult range	240 – 480

Reference: Beckman kit insert.

Interferences

Haemolysis will artificially increase levels.

Interpretation & Clinical
Decision Value (if applicable)

In patients on chemotherapy who are receiving granulocyte colony stimulating factor, LDH levels may increase in parallel with white cell count and should not be taken as evidence of worsening malignancy.

Increased levels of LDH may occur in a number of benign conditions including skeletal muscle disease, myocardial infarction, pernicious anaemia, thalassaemia and pulmonary embolism.

References

Beckman kit insert

Test code

LDH

Lab Handling

Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C.
 Serum and plasma samples stable for 4 days at 4°C.