|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prolactin** | | | |
| **Synonyms** | |  | N/A |
| **Clinical Indication** | |  | Prolactin should be measured as part of investigations into loss of libido, infertility, menstrual disturbances and gynaecomastia. Prolactin-secreting tumours can present with visual disturbance, headache etc. Prolactin may be added on to a sample in response to suppressed pituitary hormones (LH/FSH/TSH) to investigation pituitary dysfunction.  The use of prolactin in providing supportive evidence for a genuine epileptic seizure is severely limited by the need for a sample within 30 minutes of the fit.  Elevated prolactin levels may occur due to (the 5 Ps):   * **Physiological** - stress, exercise, lactation, pregnancy * **Pharmacological** - [drugs](https://g14167.gael-config.net/QPulseDocumentService/Documents.svc/documents/active/attachment?number=PF-PIP-12), especially neuroleptics, antiemetic’s, SSRI's * **Pituitary** - prolactinoma or other tumour causing stalk compression * Non-**Pituitary** - PCOS, hypothyroidism, renal failure * **Problems** - [Macroprolactin](https://g14167.gael-config.net/QPulseDocumentService/Documents.svc/documents/active/attachment?number=PF-PTD-205) (non-pathological increase in apparent prolactin) |
| **Part of Profile / See Also** | |  | N/A |
| **Request Form** | |  | Combined Pathology manual blood form or ICE request |
| **Availability / Frequency of Analysis** | |  | On request |
| **Turnaround Time** | |  | Same day (Monday to Friday) |
| **Patient Preparation** | |  | None required |
| **Sample Requirements** | |  |  |
|  | **Specimen Type** |  | Serum |
|  | **Volume** |  | 2 ml |
|  | **Container** |  | Yellow top (SST) tube  Or  Paediatric green top (lithium-heparin)  Or  Paediatric orange top (lithium heparin) |
| **Reference Range & Units** | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Patient group | Prolactin (mU/L) | | Women – Pre Menopausal | 71 – 566 | | Women – Post Menopausal | 58 – 416 | | Males | <278 |   Reference: Beckman kit insert  All first occasion samples with prolactin levels above 700 mU/L will be screened for presence of Macroprolactin. |
| **Interferences** | |  |  |
| **Interpretation & Clinical**  **Decision Value (if applicable)** | |  | Prolactin levels above 500 mU/L (if macroprolactin screen negative) or calculated monomeric prolactin levels above 500 mU/L (if macroprolactin screen positive) may be of pathological significance, but must be interpreted in the light of clinical details and drug therapy (see above). |
| **References** | |  |  |
| **Test code** | |  | PRL |
| **Lab Handling** | |  | Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C. |