



Salicylate

Synonyms

Acetyl Salicylic Acid. Aspirin

Clinical Indication

Suspected overdose or toxicity.

Overdose - An information sheet is available from National Poisons Service ([Toxbase](#)).

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request

Turnaround Time

Within 2 hours

Patient Preparation

None required

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Serum and plasma

Volume

1 ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube



Green top (lithium-heparin) tube



paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin)



paediatric green top (lithium-heparin)

Plain serum samples may also be used.

Reference Range & Units

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

In general, clinical features of toxicity correlate poorly with serum salicylate levels. Patients with common symptoms of salicylate intoxication are likely to have levels exceeding 300 mg/L.

Results greater than 300 mg/L are telephoned to the requesting source.

References

Poisoning and Laboratory Medicine 2002 ed. Watson I, Proudfoot A.

Test code

SAL

Lab Handling

Analysed from the primary tube and stored at 4°C.
Serum and plasma stable for 7 days at 4°C.