

VMA

Synonyms

HMMA, Vanillylmandelic acid

Clinical Indication

Screening of suspected neuroblastoma

Part of Profile / See Also

Vanillylmandelic acid (VMA) and Homovanillic acid (HVA)

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

 Referred test: Analysed by Chemical Pathology, Great Ormond Street Hospital [8692](#), if specific criteria met.

Turnaround Time

2 weeks

Patient Preparation

Sample Requirements

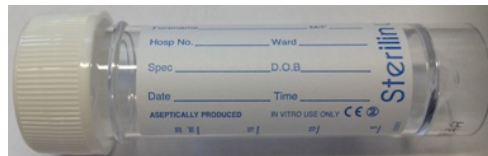
Specimen Type

Random Urine

Volume

5 ml

Container



White Capped Universal

Samples should be transported to laboratory immediately.

Reference Range & Units

Results are expressed as a ratio to creatinine

Age Range	VMA umol/mmol creat	HVA umol/mmol creat
Less than 1 year	Less than 20	Less than 15
Over 1 year	Less than 10	Less than 10

Reference: Referral laboratory

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

About 90% of children with a neuroblastoma will produce excess VMA and HVA. Intense emotional and physical stresses can cause moderate to large temporary increases in VMA levels. For monitoring of treatment decreasing VMA concentrations indicate a response to treatment; stable or increasing levels indicate that the treatment is not effective.

References

Test code

Lab Handling

Store promptly at -20°C.


 Accredited to
 ISO 15189:2012