

Insulin Antibodies

Synonyms

Clinical Indication

Insulin antibodies are not used for the routine diagnosis of type 1 diabetes.

They may be useful in the prediction of type 1 diabetes in siblings of patients diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when used with other diabetes antibodies.

Diabetes antibodies can be seen in latent autoimmune diabetes of adulthood (LADA), however, GAD antibodies are the most common.

Insulin antibodies may also be seen in autoimmune polyendocrinopathies, in association with other organ-specific autoimmune conditions or following administration of thiol-containing drugs.

It is essential to provide relevant clinical information.

Part of Profile / See Also

Islet cell antibodies, [Diabetes antibody panel \(GAD, IA2 and ZnT8 antibodies\)](#)

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual blood request form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referred Test: Analysed by Protein Reference Unit, Sheffield [8494](#),

Turnaround Time

2 to 3 weeks

Patient Preparation

No special preparation is required.

Sample Requirements

Please note a separate sample is required when Immunology tests are requested in addition to Biochemistry tests

Specimen Type

Serum

Volume

2ml

Container



Yellow top (SST) tube.



Paediatric Yellow top (SST) tube

Reference Range & Units

Normal range is 0-5 mg/L

Interferences

None known

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

<5 mg/L = Negative

5-10 mg/L = Equivocal

>10 mg/L = Positive

The presence of insulin antibodies alone are a poor predictor of development of future disease, with a sensitivity of 50-60% in children under the age of 10 years.

This assay is not able to distinguish between disease-predictive auto-antibodies and antibodies to exogenous insulin. Therefore patient history, symptoms and current prescriptions should be taken into account when interpreting results

<https://www.immqas.org.uk/TestItem.asp?id=498>

References

Test code

INSU

Lab Handling

Aliquot and store at 4-8°C prior to testing and at -20°C or below for up to 1 month after receipt.



8494

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ISO 15189:2022