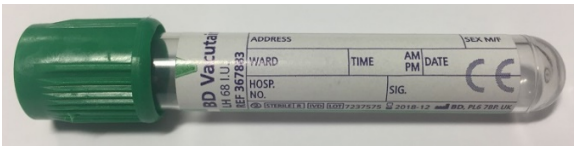
Very Long Chain Fatty Acids (VLCFA)

Synonyms	VLCFA, peroxisomal function tests
Clinical Indication	Indicated in the investigation of a number of peroxisomal disorders where there is a defect in the metabolism or processing of long chain fatty acids. Patients may present with a spectrum of disease from life threatening neonatal Addisonian crises and severe hypotonia to progressive neurological deterioration and peripheral neuropathy in adults. Plasma very long chain fatty acids (especially C26:0) are elevated in peroxisomal biogenesis or metabolism disorders such as X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy, adrenomyleoneuropathy, Refsum disease and Zellweger Syndrome. Phytanic acid may also be raised in Refsum's disease.
Part of Profile / See Also	C22, C24, C26, C24/C22 and C26/C22 ratios, phytanate and pristanate
Request Form	Combined Pathology manual blood form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	Referred test: Analysed by GOS 8692 if specific criteria met.
Turnaround Time	Approximately 3 weeks
Patient Preparation	It is important fasting samples are collected in children over 18 months old.
Sample Requirements	
Specimen Type	Plasma
Volume	Minimum volume 0.2 mL
Container	 Green top (li-heparin) tube. Or  Paediatric green (li-Heparin) tube Or  Paediatric orange (Lithium Heparin) tube Samples should be transported to laboratory immediately.
Reference Range & Units	Supplied on report
Interferences	Haemolysed samples are not suitable for analysis
Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)	Clinical interpretation provided on report
References	

Test code	

Lab Handling

UKAS MEDICAL
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