




Total Bile Acids

Synonyms	BA
Clinical Indication	<p>Serum total bile acids have been shown to be a sensitive test of hepatobiliary dysfunction. They may be useful in the diagnosis of obstetric cholestasis (OC), especially in the presence of normal LFT's.</p> <p>Incidence of OC appears to be increasing (~0.2%) and is characterised by severe pruritis, which usually develops in the third trimester. Associated risks include increased risk of maternal postpartum haemorrhage (due to disruption of the absorption of fat soluble vitamin K) and a higher rate of IUD, especially perinatal death after 36 weeks.</p>
Part of Profile / See Also	
Request Form	Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request
Availability / Frequency of Analysis	On request.
Turnaround Time	Same day and urgent.
Patient Preparation	None required.
Sample Requirements	
Specimen Type	Serum and plasma.
Volume	2 ml
Container	 Yellow top (SST) tube. Or  paediatric orange top (lithium-heparin) Or  paediatric green top (lithium-heparin) Plain serum samples may also be used.
Reference Range & Units	0 - 14 umol/L
Interferences	Please note bile acid assay is not validated for use in patients receiving UDCA (ursodeoxycholic acid). This assay measures UDCA with a recovery of 60-80% which will contribute to the total bile acids measured.
Interpretation & Clinical Decision Value (if applicable)	
References	
Test code	BA

Lab Handling

Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C.
Serum and plasma stable at 2-8°C 7days.



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Accredited to
ISO 15189:2012