


 Accredited to
 ISO 15189:2012

CA15-3

Synonyms

Carbohydrate Antigen 15-3

Clinical Indication

Serum CA15-3 is raised in breast and other adenocarcinomas, especially with distant metastasis. Levels are rarely raised in patients with localised breast cancer.

Used in the monitoring treatment of patients with advanced breast cancer.

Part of Profile / See Also

Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

Referred test: Analysed by Biochemistry, Charing Cross Hospital, if specific criteria met.

Turnaround Time

1 week samples processed locally. 2 weeks samples processed at Charing Cross.

Patient Preparation

Samples should not be taken from patients receiving therapy with high biotin doses (i.e. > 5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours following the last biotin administration.

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Serum and plasma

Volume

1 ml

Acceptable Containers



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

Less than 32 ku/L (Referral Lab Charing Cross)

Less than 34.5 ku/L (Roche)

Interferences

Typically, no high-dose hook effect can be observed at CA 153 concentrations up to 20000ku/L. However due to the heterogeneous nature of the CA 153

antigen a high dose hook effect below this value cannot be completely excluded. In cases of an unexpected low result, the sample should be diluted 1:10 and tested again. Applies to local analysis on Roche analyser only.

Interpretation & Clinical

Decision Value (if applicable)

Half-life in serum: Unknown.

CA15-3 levels may be raised in benign liver disease and possibly benign breast disease. Elevations are seen in a number of carcinomas e.g. stomach, colon, gall bladder, pancreas, oesophagus, liver and lung.

References

Roche kit insert.

Test code

CA153 C15X

Lab Handling

Aliquot and store at 4°C for samples analysed locally.
Aliquot and freeze at -20°C for samples analysed at Charing Cross.

Serum and plasma stable at 2-8°C for 5 days.