



## CA19-9

Please note that for monitoring purposes results from other laboratories may differ due to methodological differences

### Synonyms

Carbohydrate Antigen 19-9

### Clinical Indication

CA 19-9 is frequently elevated in patients with cancers other than pancreatic cancer and various benign pancreaticobiliary disorders

Given the limited sensitivity and specificity, the serum tumour marker carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA 19-9) should not be used as a diagnostic test for pancreatic cancer.

Serum CA19-9 is grossly raised in ~80% of stage 2 pancreatic carcinoma (may also be raised in chronic pancreatitis but rarely > 60 kU/L). However, elevated levels are also found in hepatobiliary disease associated with cholestasis. Used in the monitoring of known pancreatic and gastrointestinal carcinoma.

CA 19-9 requires the presence of the Lewis blood group antigen (a glycosyl transferase) to be expressed. Among individuals with a Lewis-negative phenotype (an estimated 5 to 10 percent of the population), CA 19-9 levels are not a useful tumour marker.

### Part of Profile / See Also

N/A

### Request Form

Combined Pathology manual Blood form or ICE request

### Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request

### Turnaround Time

Monday to Friday 1 day.

### Patient Preparation

None required

### Sample Requirements

#### Specimen Type

Serum

#### Volume

2 ml

#### Container



Yellow top (SST) tube

### Reference Range & Units

Less than 33 kU/L (Historical)

### Interferences

Approximately 5% of the population cannot express this antigen (Lewis a-b-) so the test cannot be used to screen for an unknown malignancy.

### Interpretation & Clinical

Critical Difference 52%

### Decision Value (if applicable)

Half Life in Serum: Approx. 1 day but can vary from less than 1 day to 3 days

Levels may also be elevated in benign conditions: acute and chronic pancreatitis, hepatocellular jaundice, cirrhosis, acute cholangitis and cystic

fibrosis.

There is no national screening programme for pancreatic cancer for the general population. Ca 19-9 should not be used to screen for pancreatic cancer.

See NICE guideline NG85 – Pancreatic cancer in adults, for details of appropriate surveillance for patient with a family history of pancreatic cancer.

Nice Guideline 85 Pancreatic cancer in adults: diagnosis and management (2018)

C199

Analysed from primary tube and stored at 4°C. Sample stable for 30 days at 2-8°C.

## References

## Test code

## Lab Handling