
Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: INHIBIN B

General Information

Lab Order Codes: INHIB

Synonyms: N/A

CPT Codes: 83520 – Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; quantitative, not otherwise specified.

Test Includes: Inhibin B level reported in pg/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: As an aid in the diagnosis of granulosa cell tumors and mucinous epithelial ovarian tumors. Monitoring of patients with granulosa cell tumors and epithelial mucinous-type tumors of the ovary known to over express inhibin B. As an adjunct to follicle-stimulating hormone testing during infertility evaluation.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: INHB)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 6 days, performed Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: SST (Gold, marble or red) tube

Draw Volume: 3 mL (1.8 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 1.0 mL (0.6 mL) serum

Collection:	Routine blood collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped round bottom plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperature. Label specimen appropriately. Forward promptly.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; gross hemolysis

Interpretive

Reference Range:

Females	
≤12 years:	<183 pg/mL
13 – 41 years regular cycle (Follicular Phase):	<224 pg/mL
42 – 51 years regular cycle (Follicular Phase):	<108 pg/mL
13 – 51 years regular cycle (Luteal Phase):	<80 pg/mL
>51 years (Postmenopausal):	<12 pg/mL
Males	
<15 days:	68 – 373 pg/mL
15 – 180 days:	42 – 516 pg/mL
6 months – 7 years:	24 – 300 pg/mL
8 – 30 years:	47 – 383 pg/mL
>72 years:	Not established

Interpretation: Inhibin B levels are elevated in approximately 89-100% of patients with granulosa cell tumors and in approximately 55-60% of patients with epithelial ovarian tumors. A normal inhibin B level does not rule out a mucinous or granulosa ovarian cell tumor. Testing for inhibin A in these cases might be informative.

For monitoring of patients with known ovarian cancer, inhibin B levels decrease to very low or undetectable levels shortly after surgery. Elevations of inhibin B after treatment are suggestive of residual, recurrent, or progressive disease. In patients with recurrent disease, inhibin B elevation seems to be present earlier than clinical symptoms. Patients in remission show normal levels of inhibin B.

For infertility evaluation, an inhibin B level in the postmenopausal range is suggestive of a diminished or depleted ovarian reserve.

Critical Values:

N/A

Limitations:

Do not interpret serum inhibin levels as absolute evidence of the presence or the absence of malignant disease. Use results in conjunction with information from the clinical evaluation of the patient and other diagnostic procedures.

Inhibin values fluctuate during the menstrual cycle. Inhibin levels in premenopausal women should be interpreted with caution.

Tumor markers are not specific for malignancy and values may vary by testing methodology. The same method should be used to serially monitor patients.

Some patients who have been exposed to animal antigens, either in the environment or as part of treatment or imaging procedures, may have circulating antianimal antibodies present. These antibodies may interfere with the assay reagents to produce unreliable results.

Methodology:

Sequential 2-step Immunoenzyme Assay

References:

[Mayo Clinic Laboratories Web Page](#) September 2021

Updates:

11/14/2017: Collection container update.

9/30/2021: Reference range and specimen requirements update per Mayo.