
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: ESR

General Information

Lab Order Codes: ESR

Synonyms: Sedimentation Rate; Sed Rate; Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate

CPT Codes: 85652 – Sedimentation Rate, erythrocyte, automated

Test Includes: Erythrocyte sedimentation rate reported as mm/hr.

Logistics

Test Indications: Evaluation of the nonspecific activity of infections, inflammatory states, autoimmune disorders, and plasma cell dyscrasias; in particular to assess severity of and follow clinical activity of rheumatic diseases, especially rheumatoid arthritis.

Lab Testing Sections: Hematology

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 hour

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Whole blood

Container: EDTA Lavender top tube or EDTA Lavender microtainer

Draw Volume: Lavender (EDTA) 2 mL Vacutainer tube: Minimum fill volume of **1 mL** is required. Allow the tube to fill until the vacuum is exhausted, and blood flow ceases.
Lavender (EDTA) Microtainer® tube: Minimum of **0.5 mL** is required. To be used for neonates, collected volumes <1.0 mL, or when a capillary (skin puncture) collection is required.

Processed Volume: 100 uL blood

Collection: Venipuncture or Capillary collection

Special Processing: Lab Staff: **Do Not** centrifuge. Testing is performed on whole blood

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Improper tube; clotted sample; underfilled tube; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; EDTA samples at room temperature >4 hours; EDTA samples refrigerated longer than 24 hours; capillary draw

Interpretive

Reference Range:	Pediatrics	0 - 20 mm/hr
	Adults	
	Male	0 - 20 mm/hr
	Female	0 - 10 mm/hr

Critical Values: None

Limitations: Reportable range: 1 – 130 mm/hr

Methodology: iSED analyzer, Alcor Scientific Inc.

References: Harmening DH (1997) Clinical Hematology and Fundamentals of Hemostasis, 3rd ed

iSED Operator’s Manual, Alcor Scientific, 20 Thurber Boulevard, Smithfield RI, 02917

Updates: 12/4/2013: Added new specimen rejection criteria based on temperature storage and age of sample. Updated Methodology.
2/1/2019: Updated collection and Method.
4/15/2019: Updated rejection criteria to extend from 12 to 24 hours for refrigeration storage.

4/2/2025; Updated volume requirements