
Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: INTERLEUKIN-6

General Information

Lab Order Codes: IL6

Synonyms: Interleukin-6, Highly Sensitive

CPT Codes: 83520 – Immunoassay, analyte, quantitative, not otherwise specified

Test Includes: Interleukin 6 level reported in pg/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: IL-6, a multi-functional cytokine produced by a range of cells, plays a central role in host defense mechanisms, is involved in induction of B-cell differentiation, induction of IL-2 and IL-2 receptor expression and proliferation and differentiation of T cells. Elevated IL-6 concentrations are reported in a variety of autoimmune diseases (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis), proliferative diseases (e.g., mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis), and malignancies (e.g., leukemia and lymphoma).

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry – Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML: IL6)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 8 days (performed Thursdays)

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Lavender (EDTA) top tube

Draw Volume: 1.5 mL (Minimum: 0.9 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.3 mL) plasma

Collection:	Routine blood collection. Place specimen on wet ice and send to lab. Must be processed within 30 minutes of draw.
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen at 1500 for 10 minutes, remove plasma aliquot and freeze immediately. Store and ship at frozen temperatures. Forward promptly.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Unlabeled or mislabeled specimen; gross lipemia; specimens other than EDTA plasma; specimens received/stored at room temp

Interpretive

Reference Range: < or =1.8 pg/mL

Interpretation: Elevated concentrations of Interleukin-6 (IL6) may indicate an ongoing inflammatory response, and could be consistent with a systemic infection, or chronic inflammatory disease.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Interleukin 6 is a nonspecific marker associated with an inflammatory response, and is not diagnostic for any specific disease or disease process. Elevated concentrations of IL-6 must be interpreted within the clinical context of the patient.

Normal concentrations of IL6 do not exclude the possibility of an ongoing inflammatory process.

IL6 has limited stability. Following centrifugation, plasma must be immediately frozen or refrigerated. Samples can only be stored at refrigerated temperatures for 24 hours, after which time samples must be frozen. Storage of plasma for any length of time at room temperature, is not acceptable.

Methodology: Cytokine assay

References: [Mayo Medical Laboratories](#) (March 2018)

Updates:
3/24/2009: Updated volumes, method and CPT.
8/14/2017: Moved to a forward test from MML.
3/14/2018: Moved back to internal test at MML.