
Lab Dept: Chemistry

Test Name: VALPROIC ACID, FREE, LEVEL

General Information

Lab Order Codes: FVPA

Synonyms: Unbound Depakene; Depakane; Depakote; Dipropylacetic acid; VPA, Divalproex; Valproate

CPT Codes: 80165 – Dipropylacetic acid (valproic acid), free

Test Includes: Free valproic acid concentration reported in ug/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Valproic acid is used for treatment of seizures. Valproic acid may be used in conjunction with other antiepileptics against tonic-clonic and partial seizures. Peak levels are reached in 1-4 hours. The biologic half-life is about 15 hours.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: MedTox Laboratories (MedTox Test: 131)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 4 – 6 hours for Stat, 1 day for Routine

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: Red NO GEL tube **preferred**

Alternate tube: Green NO GEL (Li Heparin) tube

Draw Volume: 9 mL (Minimum: 3 mL) blood

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| Processed Volume: | 3 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) serum/plasma Note: Submission of the minimum volume does not allow for repeat analysis and may result in a QNS (quantity not sufficient) test result. |
| Collection: | Routine venipuncture. Mix tubes containing anticoagulant by gentle inversion. |
| Special Processing: | Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum/plasma aliquot into a plastic sample cup. Store at refrigerated temperatures. |
| Patient Preparation: | None |
| Sample Rejection: | Unlabeled specimen; specimens other than heparinized plasma/serum |

Interpretive

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| Reference Range: | Therapeutic concentration: 6 - 20 ug/mL |
| Critical Values: | Toxic concentration: ≥ 40 ug/mL |
| Limitations: | Reporting Limit: 5.0 ug/mL |
| Methodology: | Ultrafiltration, Immunoassay (IA) |
| References: | Medtox Laboratories Web Page December 2017 |
| Updates: | 5/6/2010: CPT update, previously reported as 83520. 1/7/2015: CPT update |