
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 mcg/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. Assessing compliance and potential toxicity.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Clinic Laboratories (MML test: VALPF)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 – 2 days

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Blood

Container: SST (Gold, marble or red)

Draw Volume: 6 mL (Minimum: 3 mL) blood

Processed Volume: 2 mL (Minimum: 1 mL) serum/plasma

Collection: Routine blood collection

Special Processing: Lab Staff: Centrifuge specimen within 2 hours of collection, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped plastic vial. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; gross hemolys

Interpretive

Reference Range: Therapeutic concentration: 5 - 25 mcg/mL

Critical Values: Toxic concentration: >30 mcg/mL

Limitations: Specimens subjected to significant heat or other factors that could cause protein denaturation would demonstrate an artificially increased free valproic acid.

Methodology: Ultrafiltration, followed by Immunoassay (IA)

References: [Mayo Clinical Laboratories](#) February 2022

Updates: 5/6/2010: CPT update, previously reported as 83520.
1/7/2015: CPT update
2/9/2022: Testing moved from MedTox to Mayo.