
Lab Dept: Hematology

Test Name: PREGNANCY TEST, SERUM

General Information

Lab Order Codes: SEHCG

Synonyms: HCG; pregnancy test; human chorionic gonadotropin

CPT Codes: 84703 – Gonadotropin, chorionic (hCG); qualitative

Test Includes: Qualitative serum pregnancy test reported as positive or negative.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful for the qualitative detection of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) to detect pregnancy.

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: Blood

Container: Red top tube

Draw Volume: 2 mL (Minimum: 1.5 mL) blood

Processed Volume: Minimum: 0.5 mL serum

Collection: Routine venipuncture

Special Processing: Lab staff: Centrifuge specimen, remove serum aliquot into a screw-capped plastic vial. Store at refrigerated temperatures.

Patient Preparation: None

Sample Rejection: Unlabeled or mislabeled specimen

Interpretive

Reference Range: Negative (reported as positive or negative).

Specimens containing as low a level as 25 mIU/mL hCG will yield positive results when tested with Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test®. In normal pregnancy, hCG can be detected as early as 6 days following conception with concentrations doubling every 32 to 48 hours, peaking in excess of 100,000 mIU/mL in approximately 10 to 12 weeks. Levels of 25 mIU/mL hCG are reportedly present in urine and serum as early as 2 to 3 days before expected menses. Serum hCG is rapidly cleared into the urine and the concentration of hCG in serum is approximately equal to the concentration in urine.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Some instances of a positive urine and negative serum test occur. This is due to hCG breakdown products present in the urine. Repeat the test a week later.

Methodology: Monoclonal Antibody, Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test®

Contraindications: This test should not be used for tumor markers, order HCG, Beta subunit.

References: Quidel Quick Vue One-Step hCG Combo Test Kit Package Insert (2002)