
Lab Dept: Other Fluids

Test Name: AFP, CSF

General Information

Lab Order Codes: AFPC

Synonyms: Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP), Spinal fluid

CPT Codes: 86316 – Immunoassay for tumor antigen; other antigen, quantitative

Test Includes: AFP CSF concentration reported in ng/mL.

Logistics

Test Indications: Useful as an adjunct in the diagnosis of CNS germinomas and meningoceal carcinomatosis. Evaluating germ-cell tumors, including testicular cancer metastatic to the CNS in conjunction with beta-hCG measurement. An adjunct in distinguishing between suprasellar dysgerminomas and craniopharyngiomas. A supplement to cerebrospinal fluid cytologic analysis.

Lab Testing Sections: Chemistry - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: AFPSF)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 - 3 day, test set up Monday - Saturday

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: Spinal fluid

Container: Screw capped, sterile vial

Draw Volume: 1 mL (Minimum:0.5 mL) CSF

Processed Volume: Same as Draw Volume

Collection:	Routine spinal fluid collection
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Freeze specimen in a sterile plastic vial and send frozen.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; warm specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: <1.5 ng/mL
Reference range for newborns is not available.

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: Malignancy may occur without elevation of AFP concentration. AFP elevation occurs in approximately 70% of CNS germinomas. Measurement of beta-hCG is recommended to improve sensitivity of detection.

Methodology: Two-site Immunoenzymatic (Sandwich)

References: [Mayo Medical Web Page](#) January 2018

For serum ranges, see literature references: Ped Res 15:50-52(1981); Scand J Immunol 8(Supplement 8): 235-238