MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: BAIPD

Bile Acids for Peroxisomal Disorders, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Biomarker for peroxisomal biogenesis disorders, such as Zellweger spectrum disorder and single enzyme defects of bile acid synthesis, including D-bifunctional protein deficiency and alpha methyl CoA racemases

Monitoring patients receiving bile acid therapy, such as cholic acid, for liver disease due to peroxisomal biogenesis disorders or single enzyme defects in bile acid synthesis

Testing Algorithm

For information see:
-Bile Acid-Associated Tests Ordering Guide
-Newborn Screen Follow-up for X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy

Special Instructions

- Bile Acid-Associated Tests Ordering Guide
- Newborn Screen Follow-up for X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy

Highlights

This is a serum test for the measurement of C27 bile acids, a diagnostic marker for peroxisomal biogenesis disorders and single enzyme defects of bile acid synthesis, including D-bifunctional protein deficiency and alpha methyl CoA racemase deficiency.

This test can also be used for monitoring of treatment efficacy.

Method Name

Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Ordering Guidance

For assessment of general liver dysfunction in adults or diagnosis or monitoring of intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy, order BAFS / Bile Acids, Fractionated and Total, Serum.

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation:
Fasting: 12 to 14 hours, required
Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)
Collection Container/Tube:
Preferred: Serum gel
Acceptable: Red top
Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial
Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL
Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Biochemical Genetics Test Request (T798) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.3 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	90 days	
	Ambient	90 days	
	Frozen	90 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Bile acids are formed in the liver from cholesterol, conjugated primarily to glycine and taurine, stored and concentrated in the gallbladder, and secreted into the intestine after the ingestion of a meal. In the intestinal lumen, the bile acids serve to emulsify ingested fats to promote digestion. During the absorptive phase of digestion, approximately 90% of the bile acids are reabsorbed.

The efficiency of the hepatic clearance of bile acids from portal blood maintains serum concentrations at low levels in normal persons. An elevated fasting level of bile acids due to impaired hepatic clearance is a sensitive indicator of liver disease. Following meals, serum bile acid levels have been shown to increase only slightly in normal persons, but they are markedly elevated in patients with various liver diseases, including cirrhosis, hepatitis, cholestasis, portal-vein thrombosis, Budd-Chiari syndrome, cholangitis, Wilson disease, and hemochromatosis. No increase in bile acids will be noted in patients with intestinal malabsorption. Metabolic hepatic disorders involving organic anions (eg, Gilbert disease, Crigler-Najjar syndrome, and Dubin-Johnson syndrome) do not cause abnormal serum bile acid concentrations.

This bile acid test for peroxisomal disorders measures concentrations of C27 bile acids, which are diagnostic markers for peroxisomal biogenesis disorders, such as Zellweger spectrum disorder and single enzyme defects of bile acid synthesis, such as D-bifunctional protein deficiency and alpha methyl-CoA racemase deficiency. Elevated levels of C27 bile acids may enable diagnosis of peroxisomal biogenesis disorders and bile acid synthesis defects in children with liver cholestasis. Treatment for peroxisomal biogenesis disorders and bile acid synthesis defects with cholic acid is available. Measurement of C27 bile acids before and during treatment with bile acid therapy, such as cholic acid can assist with monitoring of treatment efficacy.

Reference Values

Dihydroxycholestanoic acid: < or =0.10 nmol/mL
Trihydroxycholestanoic acid: < or =1.30 nmol/mL
Total cholic acid: < or =5.00 nmol/mL
Total chenodeoxycholic acid: < or =6.00 nmol/mL
Total ursodeoxycholic acid: < or =2.00 nmol/mL
Total bile acids: < or =19.00 nmol/mL

Interpretation

Increases in serum C27 bile acids are seen in patients with peroxisomal biogenesis disorders (eg, Zellweger spectrum disorder) or single enzyme defects of bile acid synthesis (eg, D-bifunctional protein deficiency and alpha methyl CoA racemaces). Total bile acids are metabolized in the liver and can serve as a marker for normal liver function. The values of 2 bile acid precursors, dihydroxycholestanoic acid and trihydroxycholestanoic acid, will be reported, along with total cholic acid, total chenodeoxycholic acid, total ursodeoxycholic acid, and total bile acids. No interpretive report will be provided.

Cautions

Bile acid concentrations in serum may be elevated post meal or due to bile acid therapy, such as cholic acid, deoxycholic acid, and ursodeoxycholic acid.

Clinical Reference

1. Johnson DW, ten Brink HJ, Schuit RC, Jakobs C. Rapid and quantitative analysis of unconjugated C(27) bile acids in plasma and blood samples by tandem mass spectrometry. J Lipid Res. 2001;42(1):9-16
2. Bootsma AH, Overmars H, van Rooij A, et al. Rapid analysis of conjugated bile acids in plasma using electrospray tandem mass spectrometry: application for selective screening of peroxisomal disorders. J Inherit Metab Dis. 1999;22(3):307-310
3. Ferdinandusse S, Jimenez-Sanchez G, Koster J, et al. A novel bile acid biosynthesis defect due to a deficiency of peroxisomal ABCD3. Hum Mol Genet. 2015;24(2):361-370
4. Heubi JE, Setchell KDR, Bove KE. Inborn errors of bile acid metabolism. Clin Liver Dis. 2018;22(4):671-687. doi:10.1016/j.cld.2018.06.006
5. Sundaram SS, Bove KE, Lovell MA, Sokol RJ. Mechanisms of disease: inborn errors of bile acid synthesis. Nat Clin Pract Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2008;5(8):456-468
6. Wanders RJA, Rizzo WB. Inborn errors of peroxisome biogenesis and function. In: Sarafoglou K, Hoffmann GF, Roth KS, eds. Pediatric Endocrinology and Inborn Errors of Metabolism. 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill Medical Division; 2017:427-446
7. Fischler B, Eggertsen G, Bjorkhem I. Genetic Defects in Synthesis and Transport of Bile Acids. In: Sarafoglou K, Hoffmann GF, Roth KS. eds. Pediatric Endocrinology and Inborn Errors of Metabolism, 2e. McGraw-Hill Education; 2017. Accessed April 1, 2025. Available at

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8. Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM). Lee RH, Mara Greenberg, Metz TD, Pettker CM. Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Consult Series #53: Intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy: replaces consult #13, April 2011. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2021;224(2):B2-B9. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2020.11.002

Performance

Method Description
Bile acid concentrations in serum are measured by liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry stable isotope dilution analysis. Serum is mixed with isotopically labeled internal standards of selected bile acids and then subjected to protein precipitation. Sample preparation is semiautomated using a liquid handler. Reverse-phase liquid chromatography is performed using mobile phases to separate free bile acids, their respective tauro- and glyco-conjugates, and 2 bile acid precursors.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report
No

Day(s) Performed
Monday through Friday

Report Available
3 to 5 days

Specimen Retention Time
1 month

Performing Laboratory Location
Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

Fees & Codes

Fees
- Authorized users can sign in to Test Prices for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact Customer Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact Customer Service.

Test Classification
This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
82542

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
BAIPD	Bile Acids for Peroxisomal D/O, S	43130-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
41446	Dihydroxycholestanoic Acid	53479-2
41447	Trihydroxycholestanoic Acid	38188-9
41448	Total Cholic Acid	30518-5
41449	Total Chenodeoxycholic Acid	30519-3
41450	Total Ursodeoxycholic Acid	55159-8
41451	Total Bile Acids	14628-2