



# Test Definition: SSH24

Supersaturation Profile, Self-Collect, 24 Hour,  
Urine

## Overview

### Useful For

Diagnosis and management of patients with renal lithiasis:

- Predicting the likely composition of the stone, in patients who have a radiopaque stone, for whom stone analysis is not available

- May aid in designing a treatment program

Aiding in identification of specific risk factors for stones using a 24-hour urine collection

Monitoring the effectiveness of therapy by confirming that the crystallization potential has indeed decreased

Evaluating kidney excretion of acid and urine pH

Estimating a patient's protein intake

### Profile Information

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
SSIN1	Supersaturation, 24 HR, Home Kit, U 1	No	Yes
NAUT	Sodium, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order NAU)	Yes
KUT	Potassium, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order KUR)	Yes
CALUT	Calcium, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order CALU)	Yes
MAGT	Magnesium, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order MAGU)	Yes
CLUT	Chloride, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order CLU)	Yes
POUT	Phosphorus, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order POU)	Yes
SULFT	Sulfate, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order SULFU)	Yes
CITT	Citrate Excretion, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order CITR)	Yes
OXUT	Oxalate, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order OXU)	Yes
UPHT	pH, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order UPH24)	Yes
URICT	Uric Acid, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order URCU)	Yes
CTUT	Creatinine, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order CTU)	Yes
OSMUT	Osmolality, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order OSM24)	Yes
AMMT	Ammonium, 24 HR, U	Yes, (order AMMO)	Yes
UNT	Urea Nitrogen, 24 HR, U	No	Yes
PCRUT	Protein Catabolic Rate, 24 HR, U	No	Yes
DEMO9	Patient Demographics	No	Yes

### Highlights

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Urine specimens for this test are collected by the patient and sent directly to Mayo Clinic Laboratories via supplied collection kit. For more information, see Specimen Required.

**Method Name**

AMMT, CITT, OXUT: Enzymatic

OSMUT: Freezing Point Depression

SULFT: High-Performance Ion Chromatography (HPIC)

CALUT, POUT: Photometric

MAGT: Colorimetric Endpoint Assay

UPHT: pH Meter

NAUT, KUT, CLUT: Potentiometric, Indirect Ion-Selective Electrode (ISE)

CTUT: Enzymatic Colorimetric Assay

URICT: Uricase

UNT: Kinetic UV Assay

[PCRUT, SSIN1: Calculation](#)**NY State Available**

Yes

**Specimen****Specimen Type**

Urine

**Necessary Information**

1. 24-Hour volume in milliliters is required.
2. Patient's height in centimeters and weight in kilograms are required if patient is younger than 18 years.
3. Patient's street address, city, state, ZIP (postal) code, country, and home phone are required

**Specimen Required****Patient Preparation:**

X-ray dyes and contrast media will affect uric acid test results.

-If a kidney X-ray with dye or computerized tomography (CT) scan with contrast has been performed, the patient should wait at least 24 hours before starting collection.

-If a cholangiography (bile duct X-ray) has been performed, the patient should wait 7 days before starting collection.

-If patient has taken tablets for a gallbladder X-ray, the patient should wait 7 days before starting collection.

**Supplies:** SSH24 Home Collection Kit (T921)**Collection Container/Tube:** 24-hour graduated urine container with no metal cap or glued insert**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic, 60-mL urine bottle**Specimen Volume:** 35 mL**Collection Instructions:**

1. Order test each time the patient is to collect a 24-hour urine specimen at home and mail the specimen directly to

Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

2. Order should be placed a minimum of 3 days prior to desired date of collection.
3. Enter patient's address information for each order created, including street address, city, state abbreviation, zip code, country, and home phone number.
4. For each order, the SSH24 Home Collection kit will be mailed directly to the patient for self-collection. This kit contains instructions for how to properly collect and transport the specimen after collection.

### Specimen Minimum Volume

16 mL

### Reject Due To

pH <4.5 or pH >8.0	Reject
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### Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	14 days	
	Ambient	72 hours	
	Frozen	14 days	

## Clinical & Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Urine is often supersaturated, which favors precipitation of several crystalline phases, such as calcium oxalate, calcium phosphate, and uric acid. However, crystals do not always form in supersaturated urine because supersaturation is balanced by crystallization inhibitors that are present in the urine. Urinary inhibitors include ions (eg, citrate) and macromolecules but remain poorly understood.

Urine supersaturation is calculated by measuring the concentration of all the ions that can interact (potassium, calcium, phosphorus, oxalate, uric acid, citrate, magnesium, sodium, chloride, sulfate, and pH). Once the concentrations of all the relevant urinary ions are known, a computer program can calculate the theoretical supersaturation with respect to the important crystalline phases (eg, calcium oxalate).(1)

Since the supersaturation of urine has been shown to correlate with stone type,(2) therapy is often targeted towards decreasing the urinary supersaturations identified. Treatment strategies include alterations in diet and fluid intake as well as drug therapy; all designed to decrease the urine supersaturation.

### Reference Values

SUPERSATURATION REFERENCE MEANS (Delta G: DG)

Males:

Calcium oxalate: 1.89 DG

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Brushite: 0.46 DG  
Hydroxyapatite: 4.19 DG  
Uric acid: 1.18 DG

Females:  
Calcium oxalate: 1.59 DG  
Brushite: -0.11 DG  
Hydroxyapatite: 3.62 DG  
Uric acid: 0.89 DG

OSMOLALITY, 24 HOUR, URINE  
0-11 months: 50-750 mOsm/kg  
> or =12 months: 150-1,150 mOsm/kg

pH, 24 HR, U  
4.5-8.0

SODIUM, 24 HOUR, URINE  
> or =18 years: 22-328 mmol/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

POTASSIUM, 24 HOUR, URINE  
> or =18 years: 16-105 mmol/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

CALCIUM, 24 HOUR, URINE  
Males:  
> or = 18 years: <250 mg/24 h  
Females:  
> or = 18 years: <200 mg/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

MAGNESIUM, 24 HOUR URINE  
> or =18 years: 51-269 mg/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

CHLORIDE, 24 HOUR URINE  
> or =18 years: 34-286 mmol/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

PHOSPHORUS, 24 HOUR, URINE  
> or =18 years: 226-1,797 mg/24 h  
Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years of.

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**SULFATE, 24 HOUR, URINE**

7-47 mmol/24 h

**CITRATE EXCRETION, 24 HOUR, URINE**

0-19 years: Not established

20 years: 150-1,191 mg/24 h

21 years: 157-1,191 mg/24 h

22 years: 164-1,191 mg/24 h

23 years: 171-1,191 mg/24 h

24 years: 178-1,191 mg/24 h

25 years: 186-1,191 mg/24 h

26 years: 193-1,191 mg/24 h

27 years: 200-1,191 mg/24 h

28 years: 207-1,191 mg/24 h

29 years: 214-1,191 mg/24 h

30 years: 221-1,191 mg/24 h

31 years: 228-1,191 mg/24 h

32 years: 235-1,191 mg/24 h

33 years: 242-1,191 mg/24 h

34 years: 250-1,191 mg/24 h

35 years: 257-1,191 mg/24 h

36 years: 264-1,191 mg/24 h

37 years: 271-1,191 mg/24 h

38 years: 278-1,191 mg/24 h

39 years: 285-1,191 mg/24 h

40 years: 292-1,191 mg/24 h

41 years: 299-1,191 mg/24 h

42 years: 306-1,191 mg/24 h

43 years: 314-1,191 mg/24 h

44 years: 321-1,191 mg/24 h

45 years: 328-1,191 mg/24 h

46 years: 335-1,191 mg/24 h

47 years: 342-1,191 mg/24 h

48 years: 349-1,191 mg/24 h

49 years: 356-1,191 mg/24 h

50 years: 363-1,191 mg/24 h

51 years: 370-1,191 mg/24 h

52 years: 378-1,191 mg/24 h

53 years: 385-1,191 mg/24 h

54 years: 392-1,191 mg/24 h

55 years: 399-1,191 mg/24 h

56 years: 406-1,191 mg/24 h

57 years: 413-1,191 mg/24 h

58 years: 420-1,191 mg/24 h

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59 years: 427-1,191 mg/24 h  
60 years: 434-1,191 mg/24 h  
>60 years: Not established

OXALATE, 24 HOUR, URINE  
0.11-0.46 mmol/24 h  
9.7-40.5 mg/24 h

URIC ACID, 24 HOUR, URINE

Male:

> or =18 years: 200-1,000 mg/24 h

Female:

> or =18 years: 250-750 mg/24 h

Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

CREATININE, 24 HOUR, URINE

Male:

> or =18 years: 930-2,955 mg/24 h

Female:

> or =18 years: 603-1,783 mg/24 h

Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

AMMONIUM, 24 HOUR, URINE

15-56 mmol/24 h

Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years or older than 77 years.

UREA NITROGEN, 24 HOUR, URINE

> or =18 years: 7-42 g/24 h

Reference values have not been established for patients who are younger than 18 years.

PROTEIN CATABOLIC RATE, 24 HOUR, URINE

56-125 g/24 h

### Interpretation

Delta G (DG), the Gibbs free energy of transfer from a supersaturated to a saturated solution, is negative for undersaturated solutions and positive for supersaturated solutions. In most cases, the supersaturation levels are slightly positive, even in normal individuals, but are balanced by an inhibitor activity.

While the DG of urine is often positive, even in the urine of non-stone formers, on average, the DG is more positive in those individuals who do form kidney stones. The reference values were derived by comparing urinary DG values for the important stone-forming crystalline phases between a population of stone formers and a population of non-stone formers. DG values that are outside the expected range in a population of non-stone formers are marked abnormal.

If the urine citrate is low, secondary causes should be excluded including hypokalemia, renal tubular acidosis,

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gastrointestinal bicarbonate losses (eg, diarrhea or malabsorption), or an exogenous acid load (eg, excessive consumption of meat protein).

A normal or increased citrate value suggests that potassium citrate may be a less effective choice for treatment of a patient with calcium oxalate or calcium phosphate stones.

An increased urinary oxalate value may prompt a search for genetic abnormalities of oxalate production (ie, primary hyperoxaluria). Secondary hyperoxaluria can result from diverse gastrointestinal disorders that result in malabsorption. Milder hyperoxaluria could result from excess dietary oxalate consumption or reduced calcium (dairy) intake, perhaps even in the absence of gastrointestinal disease.

High urine ammonium and low urinary pH suggest ongoing gastrointestinal losses. Such patients are at risk of uric acid and calcium oxalate stones.

Low urine ammonium and high urine pH suggest renal tubular acidosis. Such patients are at risk of calcium phosphate stones.

Patients with calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate stones are often treated with citrate to raise the urine citrate (a natural inhibitor of calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate crystal growth). However, since citrate is metabolized to bicarbonate (a base), this drug can also increase the urine pH. If the urine pH gets too high with citrate treatment, one may unintentionally increase the risk of calcium phosphate stones. Monitoring the urine ammonium concentration is one way to titrate the citrate dose and avoid this problem. A good starting citrate dose is about one-half of the urine ammonium excretion (in mEq of each). One can monitor the effect of this dose on urine ammonium, citrate, and pH values and adjust the citrate dose based upon the response. A fall in urine ammonium levels should indicate whether the current citrate is enough to partially (but not completely) counteract the daily acid load of that given patient.

The protein catabolic rate is calculated from urine urea. Under routine conditions, the required protein intake is often estimated as 0.8 g/ kg body weight.

The results can be used to determine the likely effect of a therapeutic intervention on stone-forming risk. For example, taking oral potassium citrate will raise the urinary citrate excretion, which should reduce calcium phosphate supersaturation (by reducing free ionic calcium), but citrate administration also increases urinary pH (because it represents an alkali load), which promotes calcium phosphate crystallization. The net result of this or any therapeutic manipulation could be assessed by collecting a 24-hour urine and comparing the supersaturation calculation for calcium phosphate before and after therapy.

Important stone-specific factors:

-Calcium oxalate stones: urine volume, calcium, oxalate, citrate, and uric acid excretion are all risk factors that are possible targets for therapeutic intervention.

-Calcium phosphate stones (apatite or brushite): urinary volume, calcium, pH, and citrate significantly influence the supersaturation of calcium phosphate. Of note, a urine pH below 6 may help reduce the tendency for these stones to form.

-Uric acid stones: urine pH, volume, and uric acid excretion levels influence supersaturation. Urine pH is especially critical, in that uric acid is unlikely to crystallize if the pH is above 6.

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-Sodium urate stones: alkaline pH and high uric acid excretion promote stone formation.

Low urine volume is a universal risk factor for all types of kidney stones.

**Superstar Enhanced Report Interpretation:**

The predicted kidney stone type is determined by using a Mayo Clinic-developed model trained on the age, sex, urine chemistry measurements, and supersaturation delta Gibbs values included in the 24-hour urine supersaturation panel. The model predicts 4 different categories of kidney stone types: calcium oxalate, calcium phosphate, uric acid, and other. Briefly, the model was trained on a dataset including 13,000 unique patient samples and was validated on an external dataset of over 1600 patient samples. Included in the model output is a pie chart and a table that displays the predicted probability of certain kidney stone types if only sex and age group were considered. This pie chart and table is labeled "Others Your Age and Sex." In the middle is a figure that displays the normalized log odds of certain kidney stone types when the age, sex, urine chemistry measurements, and supersaturation delta Gibbs values of the specific patient are considered by the model. This figure shows how strongly the urine results match the patterns seen with each defined type of kidney stone. A higher score means a stronger match. These scores are used to help calculate the type of kidney stone for the patient of interest. The model output displays a pie chart and table that displays the predicted probability of a certain category of stone based on the patient specific age, sex, urine chemistry measurements, and supersaturation delta Gibbs values considered by the model. This pie chart and table is labeled "Your Likely Stone Type."

**Cautions**

Urine is often supersaturated with respect to the common crystalline constituents of stones, even in non-stone formers.

Individual interpretation of the supersaturation values in light of the clinical situation is critical. In particular, treatment may reduce the supersaturation with respect to one crystal type but increase the supersaturation with respect to another. Therefore, the specific goals of treatment must be considered when interpreting the test results.

**Clinical Reference**

1. Werness PG, Brown CM, Smith LH, Finlayson B. EQUIL2: a BASIC computer program for the calculation of urinary saturation. *J Urol.* 1985;134(6):1242-1244
2. Parks JH, Coward M, Coe FL. Correspondence between stone composition and urine supersaturation in nephrolithiasis. *Kidney Int.* 1997;51(3):894-900
3. Finlayson B. Calcium stones: Some physical and clinical aspects. In: David DS, ed. *Calcium Metabolism in Renal Failure and Nephrolithiasis.* John Wiley and Sons; 1977:337-382
4. Burtis CA, Bruns DE. *Tietz Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics.* 7th ed. Saunders, 2014
5. Tiselius HG, Daudon M, Thomas K, Seitz C. Metabolic work-up of patients with urolithiasis: indications and diagnostic algorithm. *Eur Urol Focus.* 2017;3(1):62-71. doi: 10.1016/j.euf.2017.03.014

**Performance****Method Description**

The major analytes evaluated are potassium, calcium, phosphorus, oxalate, uric acid, citrate, magnesium, sodium, chloride, sulfate, ammonium, urea nitrogen and pH. The protein catabolic rate is calculated from urine urea nitrogen

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using the formula: Protein catabolic rate (g/day) = [(UUN+4)\* 6.25] g

Given the measured urine concentrations of these analytes and the known affinity constants of the ions for each other at the given pH, a computer program (EQUIL2) calculates a supersaturation for each ion pair of interest (eg, calcium oxalate). Results are expressed as a Delta G (DG) value for each ion pair. DG is the Gibbs free energy of transfer from a supersaturated to a saturated solution. (Werness PG, Brown CM, Smith LH, Finlayson B. EQUIL2: a BASIC computer program for the calculation of urinary saturation. J Urol. 1985;134(6):1242-1244; Moreira DM, Friedlander JI, Hartman C, Elsamra SE, Smith AD, Okeke Z. Using 24-hour urinalysis to predict stone type. J Urol. 2013;190(6):2106-2111)

**PDF Report**

Supplemental

**Day(s) Performed**

Monday through Sunday

**Report Available**

2 to 5 days

**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**

82340-Calcium

82436-Chloride

82507-Citrate excretion

82570-Creatinine

83735-Magnesium

83935-Osmolality

83945-Oxalate

83986-pH

84105-Phosphorus

84133-Potassium

84300-Sodium  
84392-Sulfate  
84560-Uric acid  
82140-Ammonium  
84540-Urea Nitrogen

### LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
SSH24	Supersaturation, 24 HR, Home Kit, U	81232-1

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
CRU24	Creatinine, 24 HR, U	2162-6
AMU24	Ammonium, 24 HR, U	25308-8
CAU24	Calcium, 24 HR, U	6874-2
CIT24	Citrate Excretion, 24 HR, U	6687-8
OXM24	Oxalate, 24 HR, U (mmol/24 HR)	14862-7
OXG24	Oxalate, 24 HR, U (mg/24 HR)	2701-1
CLU24	Chloride, 24 HR, U	2079-2
BSA1	Patient Surface Area	8277-6
HT6	Height (cm)	3137-7
WT6	Weight (kg)	29463-7
KU24	Potassium, 24 HR, U	2829-0
MGU24	Magnesium, 24 HR, U	24447-5
NAU24	Sodium, 24 HR, U	2956-1
UOSMT	Osmolality, 24 HR, U	2694-8
PCRUT	Protein Catabolic Rate, 24 HR, U	93746-6
POU24	Phosphorus, 24 HR, U	2779-7
SUL24	Sulfate, 24 HR, U	26889-6
UNU24	Urea Nitrogen, 24 HR, U	3096-5
UPHT	pH, 24 HR, U	27378-9
URC24	Uric Acid, 24 HR, U	3087-4
21060	Interpretation	69051-1
616217	Calcium Oxalate Crystal	81623-1
616218	Brushite Crystal	101825-8
616219	Hydroxyapatite Crystal	81622-3
616220	Uric Acid Crystal	101827-4
SSDUR	Collection Duration	13362-9
SSVOL	Volume	3167-4
CS001	Patient Street Address	No LOINC Needed
CS002	Patient City	No LOINC Needed
CS003	Patient State	No LOINC Needed
CS004	Patient Zip Code	No LOINC Needed

## Test Definition: SSH24

Supersaturation Profile, Self-Collect, 24 Hour,  
Urine

CS005	Patient Country	No LOINC Needed
CS006	Patient Home Phone	No LOINC Needed