



Test Definition: SECOS

Secobarbital, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Monitoring secobarbital therapy

Method Name

Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum Red

Specimen Required

Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)

Collection Container/Tube: Red top (Serum gel/SST are **not acceptable**)

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 1.5 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect specimen immediately before the next scheduled dose.
2. Within 2 hours of collection, centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send 1 of the following forms with the specimen:

[-Neurology Specialty Testing Client Test Request \(T732\)](#)

[-Therapeutics Test Request \(T831\)](#)

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.6 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum Red	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Secobarbital is a short-acting barbiturate with hypnotic properties used as a preanesthetic agent and in the short-term treatment of insomnia.(1,2)

Secobarbital is administered orally. The duration of its hypnotic effect is about 3 to 4 hours. The drug distributes throughout the body, with a volume of distribution of 1.6 to 1.9 L/kg, and about 46% to 70% of a dose is bound to plasma proteins. Metabolism takes place in the liver primarily via hepatic microsomal enzymes. The half-life of secobarbital is about 15 to 40 hours (mean: 28 hours).(2,3)

Reference Values

Therapeutic concentration: 1.0-2.0 mcg/mL

Toxic concentration: >5.0 mcg/mL

Cutoff concentrations by gas chromatography mass spectrometry:

Secobarbital: 0.5 ng/mL

Interpretation

Secobarbital concentrations above 5 mcg/mL have been associated with toxicity.

Cautions

The concentration at which toxicity occurs varies and results should be interpreted in light of the clinical situation.

Specimens collected in serum gel tubes are not acceptable because the drug can absorb on the gel and lead to falsely decreased concentrations.

Clinical Reference

- Langman LJ, Bechtel LK, Holstege CP. Clinical toxicology. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CAD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:chap 43
- Baselt RC. Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemical in Man. 12th ed. Biomedical Publications; 2020.
- Milone MC, Shaw LM. Therapeutic Drugs and Their Management. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CAD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:420-453
- Mihic SJ, Mayfield J. Hypnotics and Sedatives. In: Brunton LL, Knollmann BC, eds. In: Goodman and Gilman's: The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 14th ed. McGraw-Hill Education; 2023:chap 22

Performance

Method Description

Barbiturates are extracted from serum using solid-phase extraction techniques. The serum is buffered and eluted with organic solvent. The organic phase is dried, reconstituted, and analysis performed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry using selected ion monitoring. The assay utilizes deuterated barbiturates as internal standards.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Thursday

Report Available

3 to 9 days

Specimen Retention Time

2 weeks

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

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

80299

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
SECOS	Secobarbital, S	4028-7

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
8243	Secobarbital, S	4028-7