MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: GALP

Galactose, Quantitative, Plasma

Overview

Useful For
Screening for galactosemia

Genetics Test Information
Galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase (GALT) deficiency is the most common cause of galactosemia and requires lifelong restriction of dietary galactose.

Plasma galactose can be elevated in patients with galactosemia caused by GALT deficiency, galactokinase deficiency, or galactose mutarotase deficiency.

Classic galactosemia can be diagnosed by analysis of GALT enzyme.

Testing Algorithm
For information see Galactosemia Testing Algorithm.

Special Instructions
- Galactosemia Testing Algorithm
- Biochemical Genetics Patient Information

Method Name
Spectrophotometric/Kinetic

NY State Available
Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type
Plasma Na Heparin

Ordering Guidance
This test is **not recommended** for follow-up of positive newborn screening results or for diagnosis of galactosemia. The preferred test to evaluate for possible diagnosis of galactosemia, routine carrier screening, and follow-up of abnormal newborn screening results is GCT / Galactosemia Reflex, Blood along with GAL1P / Galactose-1-Phosphate, Erythrocytes.

The preferred test for monitoring dietary therapy is GAL1P / Galactose-1-Phosphate, Erythrocytes for both galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase and uridine diphosphate galactose-4-epimerase deficiencies.

This test may be useful for monitoring in patients with galactose mutarotase deficiency.

Necessary Information

Biochemical Genetics Patient Information (T602) is recommended, but not required, to be filled out and sent with the specimen to aid in the interpretation of test results.

Specimen Required

Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)
Collection Container/Tube: Green top (sodium heparin)
Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial
Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL Plasma
Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot plasma into a plastic vial

Forms

1. Biochemical Genetics Patient Information (T602) is recommended.
2. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Biochemical Genetics Test Request (T798) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

Plasma: 0.2 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Plasma Na Heparin	Frozen (preferred)	365 days	
	Ambient	20 days	
	Refrigerated	20 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Galactosemia is an autosomal recessive disorder that results from a deficiency of any 1 of the 4 enzymes catalyzing the conversion of galactose to glucose: galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase (GALT), galactokinase (GALK), uridine diphosphate galactose-4-epimerase (GALE), and galactose mutarotase (GALM). GALT deficiency is the most common cause of galactosemia and is often referred to as classic galactosemia. The complete or near-complete deficiency of GALT enzyme is life threatening if left untreated. Complications in the neonatal period include failure to thrive, liver failure, sepsis, and death.

Galactosemia is treated by a galactose-restricted diet, which allows for rapid recovery from the acute symptoms and a generally good prognosis. Despite adequate treatment from an early age, individuals with galactosemia remain at

increased risk for developmental delays, speech problems, and abnormalities of motor function. Female patients with galactosemia are at increased risk for premature ovarian failure. Based upon reports by newborn screening programs, the frequency of classic galactosemia in the United States is 1 in 30,000, although literature reports range from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 60,000 live births.

A comparison of plasma and urine galactose and blood galactose-1-phosphate (Gal1P) levels may be useful in distinguishing among the 4 forms of galactosemia.

Deficiency	Galactose (plasma/urine)	Gal1P (blood)
GALK	Elevated	Normal
GALT	Elevated	Elevated
GALE	Normal-Elevated	Elevated
GALM	Elevated	Normal-Elevated

For more information see Galactosemia Testing Algorithm.

Reference Values

< or =7 days: <5.4 mg/dL
8-14 days: <3.6 mg/dL
> or =15 days: <2.0 mg/dL

Interpretation

Additional testing is required to investigate the cause of abnormal results.

In patients with galactosemia, elevated galactose in plasma or urine may suggest ineffective dietary restriction or compliance; however, the concentration of galactose-1-phosphate in erythrocytes (GAL1P / Galactose-1-Phosphate, Erythrocytes) is the most sensitive index of dietary control for patients with galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase and uridine diphosphate galactose-4-epimerase deficiencies. Increased concentrations of galactose may also be suggestive of severe hepatitis, biliary atresia of the newborn, and, in rare cases, galactose intolerance.

If results are outside the normal range and galactosemia is suspected, additional testing to identify the specific enzymatic defect is required. Results should be correlated with clinical presentation and confirmed by specific enzyme or molecular analysis. For follow-up of abnormal newborn screening results, comprehensive diagnostic testing, and carrier testing see Galactosemia Testing Algorithm. For more information see Ordering Guidance.

Cautions

No significant cautionary statements

Clinical Reference

1. Berry GT. Classic galactosemia and clinical variant galactosemia. In: Adam MP, Bick S, Mirzaa GM, et al, eds. GeneReviews [Internet]. University of Washington, Seattle; 2000. Updated March 11, 2021. Accessed January 30, 2026. Available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1518/
2. Walter JH, Fridovich-Keil JL. Galactosemia. In: Valle D, Antonarakis S, Ballabio A, Beaudet AL, Mitchell GA, eds. The Online Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Disease. McGraw-Hill; 2019. Accessed January 30, 2026. Available at https://ommbid.mhmedical.com/content.aspx?bookid=2709&sectionid=%20225081023

3. Wada Y, Kikuchi A, Arai-Ichinoi N, et al. Biallelic GALM pathogenic variants cause a novel type of galactosemia. Genet Med. 2019;21(6):1286-1294. doi:10.1038/s41436-018-0340-x
4. Timson DJ. Type IV galactosemia. Genet Med. 2019;21(6):1283-1285. doi:10.1038/s41436-018-0359-z

Performance

Method Description

The formation of reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH) measured by the increase in absorbance at 340 nm is proportional to the amount of D-galactose in the sample.(Kurz G, Wallenfels K. In: Bergmeyer HV, ed: Methods of Enzymatic Analysis. Vol 3. 2nd ed. Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, Academic Press. 1974:1279-1282; Cowan T, Pasquali M. Laboratory investigations of inborn errors of metabolism. In: Sarafoglou K, Hoffman GF, Roth KS, eds. Pediatric Endocrinology and Inborn Errors of Metabolism. 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill; 2017:1139-1158)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Tuesday

Report Available

4 to 10 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

82760

Test Definition: GALP

Galactose, Quantitative, Plasma

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
GALP	Galactose, QN, P	2308-5

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
83638	Galactose, QN, P	2308-5