MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: VITE

Vitamin E, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Monitoring of Vitamin E supplementation/treatment

Potentially detecting Vitamin E overdoses

Method Name

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

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Shipping Instructions

Ship specimen in amber vial to protect from light.

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation: Patient should fast overnight (12-14 hours); infants should have specimen collected before next feeding.
Supplies: Amber Frosted Tube, 5 mL (T915)
Collection Container/Tube:
Preferred: Red top
Acceptable: Serum gel
Submission Container/Tube: Amber vial
Specimen Volume: 0.5 mL
Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot serum into light protected plastic vial within 2 hours of collection.

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a General Request (T239) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.25 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject

Gross lipemia	Reject
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	44 days	LIGHT PROTECTED
	Frozen	44 days	LIGHT PROTECTED
	Ambient	7 days	LIGHT PROTECTED

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Vitamin E is the generic term for two different groups of methylated phenol compounds with a chromane alcoholic core linked to poly-carbon chains (tocopherols and tocotrienols).

These vitamins are all free radical scavengers, with a-Tocopherol being the most potent one in humans, as most of the related compounds are not re-secreted by the liver, thus leading to much lower circulating concentrations.

Vitamin E deficiency is very rare and mostly seen in patients with extreme malabsorption of fat and in patients with abetalipoproteinemia, a rare inborn error of metabolism. Patients with these conditions may develop peripheral neuropathy, myopathy, retinopathy, and immune deficiency.

There is a large body of scientific studies that indicates positive effects on outcomes of various diseases if regular Vitamin E supplementation is provided; however, several trials have shown evidence of increasing bleeding risks at high Vitamin E doses. Therefore, tables of tolerable doses in children and adults have been established, which should not be exceeded.

Reference Values

0-17 years: 3.8-18.4 mg/L
> or =18 years: 5.5-17.0 mg/L

Interpretation

Vitamin E concentrations within the healthy reference population range usually indicate adequate Vitamin A stores.

The rare occurrence of low Vitamin A levels might correlate with potential deficiency and investigation of potential fat malabsorptions should be considered.

Conversely, Vitamin E concentrations significantly above the upper healthy reference population range might indicate that Vitamin E intake exceeds the tolerable upper daily intake level(s).

Cautions

Testing of nonfasting specimens or the use of vitamin supplementation can result in elevated serum vitamin concentrations. Reference values were established using specimens from individuals who were fasting.

Clinical Reference

1. Ball GFM. Vitamins: Their role in the human body. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing. 2004:234-255
2. Traber MG. Vitamin E. In: Shils ME, Shike M, Ross AC, et al, eds. Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease.10th ed. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2006:434-441
3. Roberts NB, Taylor A, Sodi R. Vitamins and trace elements. In: Rifai N, Horvath AR, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. 6th ed. Elsevier; 2018:chap37
4. Sodi R. Vitamins and trace elements. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham C-AD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:417-417.e104

Performance

Method Description

Deuterated vitamin E (d6-alpha-tocopherol) is added to serum as an internal standard. Vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol) and the deuterated internal standard are extracted from the specimens and analyzed by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry.(Unpublished Mayo method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Sunday through Friday

Report Available

3 to 5 days

Specimen Retention Time

14 days

Performing Laboratory Location

Rochester

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.

Test Definition: VITE

Vitamin E, Serum

CPT Code Information

84446

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
VITE	Vitamin E, S	1823-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
2350	A-Tocopherol, Vitamin E	1823-4