

TEST STATUS - NEW TEST

Notification Date: February 19, 2025

Effective Date: March 19, 2025

Test Name: HCG (Tumor Marker), Serum or Plasma

Test ID: LAB6760

Explanation: On the effective date, Vanderbilt Medical Laboratories at MetroCenter will begin performing HCG tumor marker testing on new state-of-the-art instrumentation. The prior Beta HCG orderable will be renamed Beta HCG (Pregnancy). This test is available to VUMC clinicians only. External customer samples cannot be accepted.

For VUMC clinicians, the results in Epic will be viewable under 'Prenatal/OBGYN'. Results from HCG (Tumor Marker) will be viewable in Epic under 'Tumor Markers'.

Useful For: Monitoring of ovarian germ cell tumors, hydatidiform mole, choriocarcinoma, non-testicular teratomas, seminomatous and non-seminomatous testicular tumors.

Methodology: Electrochemiluminescence Immunoassay

Reference Interval: Female: 0 – 5 mIU/mL; Male: 0 – 3 mIU/mL

When assessing as a tumor marker, hCG measurements may be elevated in patients who are pregnant, have renal insufficiency, or are taking biotin supplementation (>5mg/day and within last 8 hours). Healthy post-menopausal females may also demonstrate mild elevations in hCG (< 9 mIU/mL).

Specimen Requirements:

Specimen Type:	Serum
Alternate Specimen:	Light Green (Lithium Heparin Plasma)
Container/Tube:	Gold Top (Clot Activator with Gel)
Specimen Preparation:	Allow specimen to clot completely at room temperature. Separate serum or plasma from cells ASAP or within 2 hours of collection.
Specimen Volume:	Fill to the Indicator Line.
Pediatric Collection:	1 Gold Microtainer
Storage/Transport Temperature:	Refrigerated (2-8 °C)

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Specimen Stability Information:

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time
Serum/Plasma	2 – 8 °C	5 Days
	20 – 25 °C	14 Days
	Frozen	12 Months

Reasons for Rejection: Hemolysis, improper collection container, insufficient volume for testing, sample outside of stability limits.

Recommendations: If the patient is suspected or known to have tumor HCG levels >1,000,000 mIU/mL, please notify the lab of prompt dilution studies as soon as possible.

CPT Code(s): 84702

Days(s) Performed: Daily

Report Available: Continuous

Questions: Please get in touch with Vanderbilt Medical Laboratories Customer Service at 615-875-5227 (5-LABS) or 800-551-5227 or visit our website: [Home | Vanderbilt Medical Laboratories \(vumc.org\)](#)