



CREIGHTON MEDICAL LABORATORIES

HOMOCYSTEINE

Creighton Medical Laboratories (CML) is pleased to announce that on January 16, 2006 Homocysteine testing will be performed on site. Specimens will no longer be required to be shipped long distances, decreasing errors related to transport and improving turn around time. The report will include information to assist you in test interpretation.

Specimen requirements and storage will remain the same. Whole blood is collected in a 5 ml EDTA tube. The tube must be placed on ice immediately after mixing. Centrifuge the specimen, remove plasma from cells, and freeze the plasma as soon as possible (within one hour after collection). Hemolysis should be avoided for optimal results.

Minimum specimen required is 0.6 ml of plasma.

Expected Values and Interpretive Data:

Reference Range: 4.0-15.4 micromol/L (<10 micromol/L recommended)

Interpretive Comments:

Plasma total homocysteine (tHcy) is a graded risk factor for cardiovascular diseases. The risk increases progressively with increased homocysteine concentration. Maintenance of homocysteine levels below 10 micromol/L is recommended.

Homocysteine results may be falsely elevated when the sample is not handled correctly. The recommended specimen is EDTA plasma separated from cells as promptly as possible. Serum specimens are acceptable, but results may be up to 10% higher than EDTA plasma specimens.

Please forward this to appropriate staff members within your facility. If you have any questions, please contact CML at (402) 280-4382.

Creighton Medical Laboratories is proud to be your partner in providing effective and timely health care.



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