

October 3, 2022

CLIENT NOTICE:

UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO SERUM BETA-CAROTENE TESTING

As part of ongoing efforts to improve our quality of service, LifeLabs Ontario will implement a new test for beta-carotene performed using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) methodology. The new test assures reliable separation of α -, cis- β -, and all-trans- β -Carotene (beta-Carotene), offering improved analytical specificity over current spectrophotometric method.

The new test will go into effect on October 3, 2022.

All relevant information related to pre-analytical handling, ordering, and reporting are listed below:

- Testing is performed once per week, and turnaround time (TAT) is 7-10 days
- Sample handling information remains the same: Collect blood in SST tube. Allow blood to clot at room temperature for 30 minutes and separate by centrifugation. Transfer an aliquot of serum to a labeled amber tube and cap tightly. PROTECT FROM LIGHT. Store and ship refrigerated at 2-8 °C.
- Results are reported to two significant digits and there are no changes in reporting units, which remain in $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (micromole per litre)
- Reference interval changes are as following.

Current method ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) Reference Interval	New method ($\mu\text{mol/L}$) Reference Interval*
0.9-3.7	< 6 yo: not established 6-11 yo: 0.08-0.90 12-19 yo: 0.05-0.70 20-39 yo: 0.05-1.10 40-59 yo: 0.05-1.50 >60 yo: 0.05-1.90

*The new reference interval is based on the US National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES), 2005-2006

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the LifeLabs Clinical Biochemist below or LifeLabs Customer Care Centre at 1-877-849-3637.

We welcome your feedback!

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