

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CLINICAL LABORATORIES UPDATE

TOTAL BILE ACIDS

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INTRODUCTION:

Bile acids are formed in the liver from cholesterol, concentrated and stored in the gallbladder, and secreted into the intestine after the ingestion of a meal. The efficiency of the hepatic clearance of bile acids from portal blood maintains serum concentrations at low levels in normal persons.

Elevated fasting bile acids level, due to impaired hepatic clearance, may be an indicator of liver diseases, including cirrhosis, hepatitis, cholestasis, portal-vein thrombosis, Budd-Chiari syndrome, cholangitis, Wilson's disease, and hemochromatosis. Moreover, significant increases in total bile acids in pregnant females can aid in the diagnosis of intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy (ICP). ICP is caused by maternal liver dysfunction during pregnancy. It is characterized by intense generalized pruritus (itchiness) which usually begins in the third trimester. Furthermore, bile acids levels also serve as an aid in the diagnosis of inherited peroxisomal disorders.

PRINCIPLE:

Enzymatic colorimetric method.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

For analysis 3cc serum or 5 cc clotted sample is required. Patient must be fasting for 12 hours. (Non-fasting sample can be accepted from pregnant females and infants as per physician's request)

SCHEDULE:

Test will be performed daily with same day reporting. (cut-off time 12:00 pm)

PLEASE FILE FOR QUICK REFERENCE



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