آغا خان یونیورسٹی ہسپتال، کراچی
The Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi

CYSTATIN C

Quantitative marker for renal function test

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

The information contained in this flyer is intended for healthcare professionals.

September 2026

What's New

The Clinical Laboratory is pleased to introduce the Serum Cystatin C test, which complements Creatinine testing to provide a more accurate assessment of renal function.

Introduction:

Cystatin C is a cysteine proteinase inhibitor. It is freely filtered by the glomeruli, making it a reliable marker for estimating glomerular filtration rate (GFR). The serum concentration of cystatin C is not greatly affected by body mass, age, sex, or race. Thus, in certain cases, cystatin C may be a more reliable marker of kidney function (i.e., eGFR) than creatinine.

Intent of Use:

- Assessing kidney function in patients suspected of having kidney disease.
- Monitoring treatment response in patients with kidney disease.
- An index of glomerular filtration rate (GFR), especially in patients where serum creatinine may be misleading (e.g., very obese, older adults, or malnourished patients)

Important Note:

- Cystatin C levels are not greatly affected by muscle mass like creatinine but do tend to increase with age.
- Concentrations of Cystatin C vary little with gender, age or race and are not affected by most drugs, infections or diet. However, they may be increased by steroid medication, smoking and inflammation.
- Cystatin C concentrations may be high because of increased production by cancer cells or an overactive thyroid gland, even if kidney function is normal

Principle:

Particle-enhanced Immunonephelometric

Specimen Type:

3-5cc clotted blood or 2-3cc serum

Charges:

Rs.7000.00

**Revisions may apply*

Scedule:

Tuesday and Friday, reporting on following working day

For more information please call: 021 3486 1620
or Email: laboratory@aku.edu

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