

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
CLINICAL LABORATORIES

UPDATE

Free β -human chorionic gonadotropin (Free β HCG)

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INTRODUCTION

Human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) is a glycoprotein hormone. The protein is produced by trophoblast tissue and serves to maintain the corpus luteum during the early weeks of pregnancy. It is now known that free β HCG, in combination with other serum and radiological markers can assist in identifying women at an increased risk of carrying a fetus with Down syndrome during the first trimester (week 8-14) of pregnancy.

PRINCIPLE:

Electrochemiluminescence immunoassay

SPECIMEN COLLECTION:

For analysis, 3-5 cc blood sample in serum separator tube (Gel tube /yellow top tube) is required.

Grossly haemolysed or lipemic samples will be rejected.

REFERENCE RANGE:

Gestational week	8	9	10	11	12	13
Median value (IU/L)	70.7	75.5	57.3	42.8	34.5	29.

SCHEDULE:

- Test will be performed on Tuesday (every week) and will be reported on the next day.

PLEASE FILE FOR QUICK REFERENCE



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