Effective August 26, 2014, the clinical laboratory will switch methodologies for the Folate assay. The switch will be from the Siemens ADVIA Centaur Chemiluminescent Immunoassay to the Abbott ARCHITECT i1000 Chemiluminescent Microparticle Immunoassay (CMIA).

The comparison studies between the ARCHITECT and the Centaur methods showed some differences, with the ARCHITECT method producing slightly lower values overall. Please note new reference ranges below.

Sample Requirements:

Collect: SST (gold top) or plain red top serum, 4 mL and PROTECT SAMPLES FROM LIGHT.

Patient Preparation: FASTING. Recent food intake may increase the folate concentration.

Storage/Transport: Deliver at room temperature to the laboratory for processing. If sample cannot be delivered to the laboratory within 8 hours of collection, centrifuge sample and transport separated serum refrigerated at 2-8°C.

Stability: Separated serum (protected from light) can be refrigerated at 2-8°C for up to 7 days, or frozen at -10°C for longer storage.

Minimum volume: 0.5 mL serum; (absolute minimum – only pipetable once – 0.3 mL serum)

Unacceptable Conditions: ANY HEMOLYSIS, samples other than serum, samples not held at correct temperature.

Reference Interval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Interval</th>
<th>&gt; 7.0 ng/mL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deficient</td>
<td>&lt;3.5 ng/mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td>3.5 – 6.9 ng/mL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional Information: The molecular structures of methotrexate, aminopterin, and folinic acid (Leucovorin) chemotherapeutic agents are similar to folate. These agents cross react with the folate binding protein in folate assays. Do not use this assay for patients using these drugs.

Routine Testing: Weekdays, dayshift in the Special Chemistry section at the Clinical Lab’s STC location.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Laboratory Client Services at (916) 734-7373 or email pathologyclientservices@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.