**Orderable - AFPN**

**Turn Around Time:** 4 hours

**Alternate Name(s):**

Alphafetoprotein

AFP

**Specimen:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Pediatric</th>
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| 4.5 mL Light Green top (Li-Heparin) Vacutainer tube | 0-2 years: 0.5 mL Light Green top Microtainer  
2-10 years: 3 mL Light Green top Vacutainer tube |

Red, Gold, or Lavender (EDTA) top tubes are also acceptable

**Collection Information:**

Minimum volume of plasma or serum required is 700 µL for adult samples or 200 µL for pediatric samples.

**Reference Ranges:**

> 5 years: ≤ 7 µg/L

Literature indicates that from birth to 1 month of age, expected AFP values are up to 18,964 µg/L for girls and up to 16,387 µg/L for boys. From 1 month to 12 months of age, expected values are up to 77 µg/L for girls and up to 28 µg/L for boys. The AFP level continues to fall slowly until adult levels are reached at about 5 years of age.

**Interpretive Comments:**

Used as a tumour marker for non-seminomatous germ cell tumours and hepatocellular carcinoma. Not recommended for cancer screening in the general population.
Levels can also be increased in other diseases such as acute viral hepatitis, chronic active hepatitis, and liver cirrhosis.

Alpha fetoprotein is increased in pregnancy and is a part of prenatal maternal serum screening for Down syndrome and open neural tube defects (see Maternal Serum Screen).

**Comments:**

Biotin may interfere with this test. Samples should not be taken from patients receiving high biotin doses (i.e. > 5 mg/day) until at least 8 hours after the last biotin administration.