CAROTENE, SERUM

Orderable - CAR
Turn Around Time: 10 days

Alternate Name(s):
Beta Carotene

Specimen:
6 mL Red top Vacutainer tube

Collection Information:
Minimum volume of serum or plasma required is 1 mL.

Test Preparation Instructions: Fasting specimen preferred. Patient should fast for 12 hours and abstain from alcohol for 24 hours prior to collection.

Spin and aliquot serum or plasma and freeze immediately and send to the lab.

Avoid exposure to light.

Reference Ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 to 11 years:</td>
<td>0.08-0.9 umol/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 19 years:</td>
<td>0.05-0.7 umol/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 to 39 years:</td>
<td>0.05-1.1 umol/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 to 59 years:</td>
<td>0.05-1.5 umol/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 60 years:</td>
<td>0.05-1.9 umol/L</td>
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</tbody>
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Interpretive Comments:
Precursor of Vitamin A and absorbed from GI tract with Vitamin A. Decreased in malabsorption syndromes and steatorrhea. May be elevated in hyperlipidemia or in fad dieting (carrots, vegetable juices)
**Special Processing:**
Protect from light and freeze serum immediately after separation.

**Storage and Shipment:**
Separate and freeze. Ship frozen and do not allow time to thaw.