COMPLEMENT C4, PLASMA

Orderable - C₄ / C₃C₄
Turn Around Time: 4 hours

Alternate Name(s):
C₄

Specimen:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Pediatric</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.5 mL Green (Lithium Heparin) top Vacutainer</td>
<td>0-2 years: 0.5 mL Light Green top (Li-Heparin) Microtainer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2-10 years: 3 mL Light Green top (Li-Heparin) Vacutainer tube</td>
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<td>Serum from a 5 mL Gold top or 6 mL Red top is also acceptable.</td>
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Collection Information:

Fasting specimen preferred.

Collect blood aseptically in a Vacutainer tube.

Avoid hemolysis.

Reference Ranges:

0.10-0.40 g/L

Interpretive Comments:

This test quantitates the amount of C₄ in the plasma but does not test C₄ function. Decreased levels are associated with complement classical pathway activation, decreased or dysfunctional C₁ esterase inhibitor or genetic deficiency. Major clinical manifestations include SLE, glomerulonephritis, and pyogenic infections.
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Comments:

Normally run in conjunction with C3. C4 degrades in storage. Turbidimetric assays not suitable for measurement of highly lipemic or hemolytic samples or samples containing high levels of circulating immune complexes.

Specimen Stability:

Specimen is stable for 2 days at 20-25°C and 8 days at 4-8°C.