

Clorazepate Desmethyldiazepam

General:

Clorazepate is a "classical" benzodiazepine. Other classical benzodiazepines include alprazolam, diazepam, clonazepam, oxazepam, lorazepam, nitrazepam, bromazepam and flurazepam. Clorazepate is a long acting benzodiazepine drug and produces the metabolite **Desmethyldiazepam** which has a half life of 36-200 hours and which can be analyzed in serum or urine.

Regular use of benzodiazepines causes the development of dependence characterized by tolerance to the therapeutic effects of benzodiazepines and the development of the benzodiazepine withdrawal syndrome including symptoms such as anxiety, apprehension, tremor, insomnia, nausea, and vomiting upon cessation of benzodiazepine use. Withdrawal from benzodiazepines should be gradual as abrupt withdrawal from high doses of benzodiazepines may cause confusion, toxic psychosis, convulsions, or a condition resembling delirium tremens. Abrupt withdrawal from lower doses may cause depression, nervousness, rebound insomnia, irritability, sweating, and diarrhea.

The following tests are available:

- **Desmethyldiazepam in serum**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: LCMS

Units: µg/L

Ref.- range: 600 - 1500

- **Desmethyldiazepam in urine**

Material: 10 ml urine

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: GCMS

Units: negative

Ref.- range: see report

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>