

Transferrin

General:

Transferrin is a protein with a molecular weight of 90,000 Dalton, and is part of the β -fraction in protein electrophoresis. It is formed in the liver, and transports iron from the places of resorption in the upper small intestine to the hematopoetic tissues in bone marrow. It has been described as total iron binding capacity earlier. Transferrin prevents renal iron loss or iron intoxications. The transport capacity of transferrin, however, is only used to a third under normal conditions.

The following tests are available:

- **Transferrin in serum**

Indication: Differential diagnostics of iron deficiency anemia, suspicion of hemochromatosis, verification in selective proteinuria.

Material: 1 ml serum

Stability: 8 days at 2 to 8°C

TAT: same day, FML

Method: turbidimetry

Units: mg/dl

Ref.- range: 200 - 360

- **Transferrin in urine**

Material: 10 ml urine

TAT: 7-10 days*

Method: nephelometry

Units: mg/dl

Ref.- range: <0.22

- **Transferrin saturation**

Indication: Transferrin saturation is considered a screening test for hemochromatosis. Suspicion of iron overload, differential diagnosis of iron deficiency.

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: same day, FML

Method: calculated

Units: %

Ref.- range: 2.0 - 40.0

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