

Reporting Title: Serotonin, B  
Performing Location: Rochester

Additional Testing Requirements:

First-line testing for the diagnosis of carcinoid tumors with symptoms suggestive of carcinoid syndrome consists of urinary serotonin (SERU / Serotonin, 24 Hour, Urine), urinary 5-HIAA (HIAA / 5-Hydroxyindoleacetic Acid [5-HIAA], 24 Hour, Urine), and serum chromogranin A (CGAK / Chromogranin A, Serum).

Specimen Requirements:

Patient Preparation:

1. Patients should not eat avocados, bananas, butternuts, cantaloupe, dates, eggplant, grapefruit, hickory nuts, honeydew melon, kiwifruit, melon, nuts, pecans, pineapple, plantains, plums, tomatoes, or walnuts, which are high in serotonin for 48 hours before and during collection.
2. Patient should discontinue medications that may elevate urine serotonin concentration including lithium, monoamine oxidase-inhibitors, methyl dopa, morphine, and reserpine. Patient should also discontinue [use of](#) selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI; eg, PROZAC) that can lead to depletion of platelet serotonin levels and result in false-negative urine serotonin tests.

Supplies: Serotonin Tube (T259)

Collection Container/Tube: Lavender top (EDTA)

Submission Container/Tube: Serotonin tube containing ascorbic acid

Specimen Volume: 2.5 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Immediately after collection, transfer approximately 2.5 mL of whole blood to the serotonin tube and mix well (any volume of whole blood from 1.5-3 mL is acceptable).
2. Immediately freeze specimen (necessary to lyse the red blood cells).

Forms:

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an [Oncology Test Request](#) (T729) with the specimen.

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Whole Blood EDTA	Frozen	90 days	SEROTONIN TUBE

Result Codes:

Result ID	Reporting Name	Type	Unit	LOINC®
84373	Serotonin, B	Numeric	ng/mL	2939-7

LOINC® and CPT codes are provided by the performing laboratory.

Supplemental Report:

No

CPT Code Information:

84260

**Reference Values:**

&lt; or =330 ng/mL

For SI unit Reference Values, see [www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/order-tests/si-unit-conversion.html](http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/order-tests/si-unit-conversion.html)