

Overview

Useful For

Assessment of renal tubular injury or dysfunction using 24-hour urine collections

Screening for tubular abnormalities

Detecting chronic asymptomatic renal tubular dysfunction(2)

Profile Information

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
AIM	Alpha-1-Microglobulin, 24 HR, U	No	Yes
A1MCR	A1M/Creat Ratio	No	Yes
A1MC	Alpha-1-Microglobulin Concentration	No	Yes
CRT24	Creatinine, 24 HR, U	Yes, (Order CTU)	Yes

Special Instructions

- [Urine Preservatives-Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens](#)

Method Name

AIM, A1MCR: Calculation

A1MC: Immunonephelometry

CRT24: Enzymatic Colorimetric Assay

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Urine

Necessary Information

24-Hour volume (in milliliters) is required.

Specimen Required

Container/Tube: Plastic, 5-mL tube

**Specimen Volume:** 4 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

- 1. Collect urine for 24 hours.
- 2. No preservative.
- 3. Mix well before taking 4-mL aliquot.

**Additional Information:** For multiple collections see [Urine Preservatives-Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens](#)

**Forms**

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Renal Diagnostics Test Request](#) (T830) with the specimen.

**Urine Preservative Collection Options**

**Note:** The addition of preservative or application of temperature controls **must occur within 4 hours of completion** of the collection.

Ambient	OK
Refrigerate	Preferred
Frozen	OK
50% Acetic Acid	OK
Boric Acid	OK
Diazolidinyl Urea	No
6M Hydrochloric Acid	No
6M Nitric Acid	No
Sodium Carbonate	No
Thymol	No
Toluene	No

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

1 mL

**Reject Due To**

Gross hemolysis	Reject
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**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Urine	Refrigerated (preferred)	7 days	
	Ambient	7 days	
	Frozen	7 days	

**Clinical & Interpretive**

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**Clinical Information**

Alpha-1-microglobulin is a low-molecular-weight protein of 26 kDa and a member of the lipocalin protein superfamily.<sup>(1)</sup> It is synthesized in the liver, freely filtered by glomeruli, and reabsorbed by renal proximal tubules cells where it is catabolized.<sup>(1)</sup> Due to extensive tubular reabsorption, under normal conditions very little filtered alpha-1-microglobulin appears in the final excreted urine. Therefore, an increase in the urinary concentration of alpha-1-microglobulin indicates proximal tubule injury and/or impaired proximal tubular function.

Elevated excretion rates can indicate tubular damage associated with renal tubulointerstitial nephritis or tubular toxicity from heavy metal or nephrotoxic drug exposure. Glomerulonephropathies and renal vasculopathies also are often associated with coexisting tubular injury and so may result in elevated excretion. Elevated alpha-1-microglobulin in patients with urinary tract infections may indicate renal involvement (pyelonephritis).

Measurement of urinary excretion of retinol-binding protein, another low-molecular-weight protein, is an alternative to the measurement of alpha-1-microglobulin. To date, there are no convincing studies to indicate that one test has better clinical utility than the other.

Urinary excretion of alpha-1-microglobulin can be determined from either a 24-hour collection or from a random urine collection. The 24-hour collection is traditionally considered the gold standard. For random or spot collections, the concentration of alpha-1-microglobulin is divided by the urinary creatinine concentration. This corrected value adjusts alpha-1-microglobulin for variabilities in urine concentration.

**Reference Values**

> or =18 years: <23 mg/24 hours

Reference values have not been established for patients who are less than 18 years of age.

**Interpretation**

Alpha-1-microglobulin above the reference values may be indicative of a proximal tubular dysfunction.

**Cautions**

Since this is a nephelometric assay, turbidity and particles (eg, cells, crystals) in the specimen can interfere with the test.

**Clinical Reference**

1. Akerstrom B, Logdberg L, Berggard T, Osmark P, Lindqvist A: Alpha(1)-microglobulin: a yellow-brown lipocalin. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2000 Oct 18;1482(1-2):172-184
2. Yu H, Yanagisawa Y, Forbes M, Cooper EH, Crockson RA, MacLennan RC: Alpha-1-microglobulin: an indicator protein for renal tubular function. *J Clin Pathol*. 1983 Mar;36(3):253-259
3. Hjorth L, Helin I, Grubb A: Age-related reference limits for urine levels of albumin, orosomucoid, immunoglobulin G, and protein HC in children. *Scand J Clin Lab Invest*. 2000 Feb;60(1):65-73
4. Pagana K, Pagana T, Papana T, eds: *Mosby's Diagnostic and Laboratory Test Reference*. Mosby; 2020:632

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**Performance****Method Description**

**Alpha-1-Microglobulin:**

In an immunochemical reaction, alpha-1-microglobulin present in the urine sample forms immune complexes with anti-alpha-1-microglobulin specific antibodies. These complexes scatter a beam of light passed through the sample. The intensity of the scattered light is proportional to the concentration of alpha-1-microglobulin in the sample. The result is evaluated by comparison with a standard of known concentration. (Package insert: N Alpha-1-Microglobulin. Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Inc; V5, 05/2018)

**Creatinine:**

The enzymatic method is based on the determination of sarcosine from creatinine with the aid of creatininase, creatinase, and sarcosine oxidase. The liberated hydrogen peroxide is measured via a modified Trinder reaction using a colorimetric indicator. Optimization of the buffer system and the colorimetric indicator enables the creatinine concentration to be quantified both precisely and specifically. (Package insert: Creatinine plus ver 2. Roche Diagnostics; V 15.0, 03/2019)

**PDF Report**

No

**Day(s) Performed**

Varies

**Report Available**

1 to 7 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

7 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test has been cleared, approved, or is exempt by the US Food and Drug Administration and is used per manufacturer's instructions. Performance characteristics were verified by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements.

**CPT Code Information**

83883

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
A124	Alpha-1-Microglobulin, 24 HR, U	99075-4

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
TM10	Collection Duration	13362-9
VL8	Urine Volume	3167-4
CR_A	Creatinine, 24 HR, U	2162-6
CR_24	Creatinine Concentration, 24 HR, U	20624-3
AIM	Alpha-1-Microglobulin, 24 HR, U	48414-7
A1MC	Alpha-1-Microglobulin Concentration	99076-2
A1MCR	A1M/Creat Ratio	99075-4