MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: PALD

Aldosterone, Plasma

Overview

Useful For

Investigation of primary aldosteronism (eg, adrenal adenoma/carcinoma and adrenal cortical hyperplasia) and secondary aldosteronism (renovascular disease, salt depletion, potassium loading, cardiac failure with ascites, pregnancy, Bartter syndrome) using plasma specimens

Testing Algorithm

For more information see Steroid Pathways.

Special Instructions

- Renin-Aldosterone Studies
- Steroid Pathways

Method Name

Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Plasma EDTA

Specimen Required

Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)
Collection Container/Tube: Lavender top (EDTA)
Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial
Specimen Volume: 2 mL Plasma
Collection Instructions:
1. See Renin-Aldosterone Studies for detailed instructions.
2. The recommended collection time is 8 a.m., after the patient is active for approximately 2 hours. Try to collect the specimen as close to that time as possible and no later than 10 a.m.
3. Centrifuge and aliquot plasma into a plastic vial.

Forms

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

Specimen Minimum Volume

Plasma: 1.2 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Plasma EDTA	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	4 days	
	Frozen	30 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Aldosterone stimulates sodium transport across cell membranes, particularly in the distal renal tubule where sodium is exchanged for hydrogen and potassium. Secondarily, aldosterone is important in the maintenance of blood pressure and blood volume.

Aldosterone is the major mineralocorticoid and is produced by the adrenal cortex.

The renin-angiotensin system is the primary regulator of the synthesis and secretion of aldosterone. Likewise, increased concentrations of potassium in the plasma may directly stimulate adrenal production of the hormone. Under physiologic conditions, pituitary adrenocorticotropic hormone is not a major factor in regulating aldosterone secretion.

For more information see Steroid Pathways.

Reference Values

0-30 days: 17-154 ng/dL*
31 days-11 months: 6.5-86 ng/dL*
1-10 years:
< or =40 ng/dL (supine)*
< or =124 ng/dL (upright)*
> or =11 years: < or =21 ng/dL (a.m. peripheral vein specimen)

*Loeuille GA, Racadot A, Vasseur P, Vandewalle B. Blood and urinary aldosterone levels in normal neonates, infants and children. Pediatrie. 1981;36(5):335-344

For International System of Units (SI) conversion for Reference Values, see www.mayocliniclabs.com/order-tests/si-unit-conversion.html.

Interpretation

A high ratio of plasma aldosterone (PA) in ng/dL to plasma renin activity (PRA) in ng/mL per hour, is a positive screening test result, a finding that warrants further testing. An PA/PRA ratio greater than or equal to 20 is only interpretable with an PA greater than or equal to 15 ng/dL and indicates probable primary aldosteronism.

Kidney disease, such as unilateral renal artery stenosis, results in elevated renin and aldosterone levels. Renal venous catheterization may be helpful. A positive test is a renal venous renin ratio (affected/normal) greater than 1.5.

Note: Advice on stimulation or suppression tests is available from Mayo Clinic's Division of Endocrinology and may be obtained by calling 800-533-1710.

Cautions

The plasma renin activity (PRA) cannot be interpreted if the patient is being treated with spironolactone (Aldactone). Spironolactone should be discontinued for 4 to 6 weeks before testing.

Late p.m. levels can be up to 30% lower than early a.m. levels. Supine values are on average 50% lower than upright collections. Sodium-deplete subjects have significantly elevated plasma aldosterone levels, potentially exceeding the upper limit of the salt replete upright reference range by several fold. To account for these variables, at least in part, it is recommended that PRA is measured concomitantly. In situations of physiological variability, PRA should be altered in the same direction as aldosterone. For more information see Renin-Aldosterone Studies.

Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors have the potential to falsely elevate PRA. Therefore, in a patient treated with an ACE inhibitor, the findings of a detectable PRA level or a low PA/PRA ratio do not exclude the diagnosis of primary aldosteronism. In addition, a strong predictor for primary aldosteronism is a PRA level undetectably low in a patient taking an ACE inhibitor.

Clinical Reference

1. Young WF Jr. Primary aldosteronism: A common and curable form of hypertension. Cardiol Rev. 1999;7(4):207-214
2. Young WF Jr. Pheochromocytoma and primary aldosteronism: diagnostic approaches. Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am. 1997;26(4):801-827
3. Hurwitz S, Cohen RJ, Williams GH. Diurnal variation of aldosterone and plasma renin activity: timing relation to melatonin and cortisol and consistency after prolonged bed rest. J Appl Physiol. 2004;96(4):1406-1414
4. Inoue K, Goldwater D, Allison M, Seeman T, Kestenbaum BR, Watson KE. Serum aldosterone concentration, blood pressure, and coronary artery calcium: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. [published correction appears in Hypertension. 2021 Mar 3;77(3):e34]. Hypertension. 2020;76(1):113-120. doi:10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.120.15006

Performance

Method Description

Isotopically labeled aldosterone is added to serum and plasma samples to serve as an internal standard (IS). Aldosterone and IS are extracted from the specimens using solid phase extraction. The aldosterone levels are then measured in the resulting extract by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry. (Unpublished Mayo Method)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed
Monday through Friday

Report Available
2 to 5 days

Specimen Retention Time
14 days

Performing Laboratory Location
Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Superior Drive

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 was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

CPT Code Information
82088

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
PALD	Aldosterone, P	1763-2

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
65424	Aldosterone, P	1763-2