Test Definition: ACRN

Acylcarnitines, Quantitative, Plasma

Overview

Useful For

Diagnosis of fatty acid oxidation disorders and several organic acidurias using plasma specimens

Evaluating treatment during follow-up of patients with fatty acid beta-oxidation disorders and several organic acidurias

Method Name

Flow Injection Analysis-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (FIA-MS/MS)

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Plasma

Necessary Information

1. Patient's age is required.

2. Include family history, clinical condition (asymptomatic or acute episode), diet, and drug therapy information.

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation: Collect specimen just before scheduled meal or feeding.

Collection Container/Tube:

Preferred: Green top (sodium heparin)

Acceptable: Lavender top (EDTA) or green top (lithium heparin)

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 0.1 mL Plasma

Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot plasma into plastic vial.

Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Biochemical Genetics Test Request (T798) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

0.04 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
Gross lipemia	OK

Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Plasma	Frozen (preferred)	92 days	
	Ambient	8 days	
	Refrigerated	64 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Acylcarnitine analysis enables the diagnosis of many disorders of fatty acid oxidation and several organic acidurias, as relevant enzyme deficiencies cause the accumulation of specific acyl-CoAs.(1) Fatty acid oxidation (FAO) plays a major role in energy production during periods of fasting. When the body's supply of glucose is depleted, fatty acids are mobilized from adipose tissue, taken up by the liver and muscles, and oxidized to acetyl-CoA. In the liver, acetyl-CoA is the building block for the synthesis of ketone bodies, which enter the blood stream and provide an alternative substrate for production of energy in other tissues when the supply of glucose is insufficient to maintain a normal level of energy. The acyl groups are conjugated with carnitine to form acylcarnitines, which can be measured by tandem mass spectrometry. Diagnostic results are usually characterized by a pattern of significantly elevated acylcarnitine species compared to normal and disease controls.

In general, more than 20 inborn errors of metabolism can be identified using this method, including FAO disorders and organic acidurias. The major clinical manifestations associated with individual FAO disorders include hypoketotic hypoglycemia, variable degrees of liver disease and failure, skeletal myopathy, dilated/hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and sudden or unexpected death. Organic acidurias also present as acute life-threatening events early in life with metabolic acidosis, increased anion gap, and neurologic distress. Patients with any of these disorders are at risk of developing fatal metabolic decompensations following the acquisition of even common infections. Once diagnosed, these disorders can be treated by avoidance of fasting, special diets, and cofactor and vitamin supplementation.

Additional confirmatory testing is recommended. The diagnosis of an underlying FAO disorder or organic aciduria allows genetic counseling of the family, including the possible option of future prenatal diagnosis, and testing of at-risk family members of any age.

The following disorders are detectable by acylcarnitine analysis. However, further confirmatory testing is required for most of these conditions because an acylcarnitine profile can be suggestive of more than one condition.

Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorders:
-Carnitine palmitoyltransferase I deficiency
-Medium-chain 3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase deficiency
-Dienoyl-CoA reductase deficiency
-Short-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
-Medium/Short-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
-Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency

-Long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase) deficiency and trifunctional protein deficiency
-Very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
-Carnitine palmitoyl transferase type II deficiency
-Carnitine-acylcarnitine translocase deficiency
-Electron transfer flavoprotein (ETF) deficiency, ETF-dehydrogenase deficiency (multiple acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency; glutaric acidemia type II)

Organic Acid Disorders:
-Glutaryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (glutaric acidemia type I)
-Propionic acidemia
-Methylmalonic acidemia
-Isovaleric acidemia
-3-Hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA carboxylase deficiency
-3-Methylcrotonyl carboxylase deficiency
-Biotinidase deficiency
-Multiple carboxylase deficiency
-Isobutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
-2-Methylbutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
-Beta-ketothiolase deficiency
-Malonic aciduria
-Ethylmalonic encephalopathy
-Glutamate formiminotransferase deficiency (formiminoglutamic aciduria)

Reference Values

Analyte	< or =7 days (nmol/mL)	8 days-7 years (nmol/mL)	> or =8 years (nmol/mL)
Acetylcarnitine, C2	2.14-15.89	2.00-27.57	2.00-17.83
Acrylylcarnitine, C3:1	<0.04	<0.05	<0.07
Propionylcarnitine, C3	<0.55	<1.78	<0.88
Formiminoglutamate, FIGLU	<0.43	<0.08	<0.14
Iso-/Butyrylcarnitine, C4	<0.46	<1.06	<0.83
Tiglylcarnitine, C5:1	<0.05	<0.09	<0.11
Isovaleryl-/2-Methylbutyrylcarn C5	<0.38	<0.63	<0.51
3-OH-iso-/butyrylcarnitine, C4-OH	<0.13	<0.51	<0.18
Hexenoylcarnitine, C6:1	<0.12	<0.10	<0.15
Hexanoylcarnitine, C6	<0.14	<0.23	<0.17
3-OH-isovalerylcarnitine, C5-OH	<0.08	<0.12	<0.10
Benzoylcarnitine	<0.13	<0.07	<0.10
Heptanoylcarnitine, C7	<0.05	<0.05	<0.06
3-OH-hexanoylcarnitine, C6-OH	<0.08	<0.19	<0.09
Phenylacetylcarnitine	<0.15	<0.22	<0.29
Salicylcarnitine	<0.08	<0.09	<0.09
Octenoylcarnitine, C8:1	<0.48	<0.91	<0.88
Octanoylcarnitine, C8	<0.19	<0.45	<0.78

Malonylcarnitine, C3-DC	<0.09	<0.14	<0.26
Decadienoylcarnitine, C10:2	<0.11	<0.12	<0.26
Decenoylcarnitine, C10:1	<0.25	<0.46	<0.47
Decanoylcarnitine, C10	<0.27	<0.91	<0.88
Methylmalonyl-/succinylcarn, C4-DC	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
3-OH-decenoylcarnitine, C10:1-OH	<0.12	<0.12	<0.13
Glutarylcarnitine, C5-DC	<0.06	<0.10	<0.11
Dodecenoylcarnitine, C12:1	<0.19	<0.37	<0.35
Dodecanoylcarnitine, C12	<0.18	<0.35	<0.26
3-Methylglutarylcarnitine, C6-DC	<0.28	<0.21	<0.43
3-OH-dodecenoylcarnitine, C12:1-OH	<0.11	<0.10	<0.13
3-OH-dodecanoylcarnitine, C12-OH	<0.06	<0.09	<0.08
Tetradecadienoylcarnitine, C14:2	<0.09	<0.13	<0.18
Tetradecenoylcarnitine, C14:1	<0.16	<0.35	<0.24
Tetradecanoylcarnitine, C14	<0.11	<0.15	<0.12
Octanedioylcarnitine, C8-DC	<0.25	<0.19	<0.19
3-OH-tetradecenoylcarnitine C14:1OH	<0.06	<0.18	<0.13
3-OH-tetradecanoylcarnitine, C14-OH	<0.04	<0.05	<0.08
Hexadecenoylcarnitine, C16:1	<0.15	<0.21	<0.10
Hexadecanoylcarnitine, C16	<0.36	<0.52	<0.23
3-OH-hexadecenoylcarnitine,C16:1-OH	<0.78	<0.36	<0.06
3-OH-hexadecanoylcarnitine, C16-OH	<0.10	<0.07	<0.06
Octadecadienoylcarnitine, C18:2	<0.12	<0.31	<0.24
Octadecenoylcarnitine, C18:1	<0.25	<0.45	<0.39
Octadecanoylcarnitine, C18	<0.10	<0.12	<0.14
Dodecanedioylcarnitine, C12-DC	<0.10	<0.04	<0.04
3-OH-octadecadienoylcarn, C18:2-OH	<0.04	<0.06	<0.06
3-OH-octadecenoylcarnitine C18:1-OH	<0.03	<0.04	<0.06
3-OH-octadecanoylcarnitine, C18-OH	<0.03	<0.05	<0.03

Interpretation

An interpretive report is provided. The individual quantitative results support the interpretation of the acylcarnitine profile but are not diagnostic by themselves. The interpretation is based on pattern recognition.

Abnormal results are typically not sufficient to conclusively establish a diagnosis of a particular disease. To verify a preliminary diagnosis based on an acylcarnitine analysis, independent biochemical or molecular genetic analyses are required.

Cautions

In a few instances, false-negative results occur in the analysis of acylcarnitine profiles. For some disorders, such as medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency, the calculation of ratios between different acylcarnitine species provides a discriminate factor to overcome such problems. Where applicable, the calculation of such ratios will be incorporated in the routine acylcarnitine analysis. Informative profiles may also not be detected in some disorders where the accumulation of diagnostic acylcarnitines is a reflection of the residual activity of the defective enzyme, the

dietary load of precursors, and the anabolic/catabolic and treatment status of a patient.

Patients with carnitine deficiency may not exhibit abnormally high acylcarnitine concentrations. If the results are indicative for carnitine deficiency, the interpretation will include a remark that this limits the diagnostic value of the test and repeat analysis may be considered following carnitine supplementation.

Follow-up testing such as in vitro enzyme assays or molecular genetic testing may be recommended following abnormal acylcarnitine results. It is not advisable to intentionally stress the patient's metabolism (eg, fasting test) prior to specimen collection for acylcarnitine analysis.

Clinical Reference

1. Miller MJ, Cusmano-Ozog K, Oglesbee D, Young S. ACMG Laboratory Quality Assurance Committee. Laboratory analysis of acylcarnitines, 2020 update: a technical standard of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG). Genet Med. 2021;23(2):249-258
2. Matern D. Acylcarnitines, including in vitro loading tests. In: Blau N, Duran M, Gibson KM, eds. Laboratory Guide to the Methods in Biochemical Genetics. Springer Verlag; 2008:171-206
3. Rinaldo P, Cowan TM, Matern D. Acylcarnitine profile analysis. Genet Med. 2008;10(2):151-156
4. Smith EH, Matern D. Acylcarnitine analysis by tandem mass spectrometry. Curr Protoc Hum Genet. 2010;Chapter 17:Unit 17.8.1-20
5. Elizondo G, Matern D, Vockley J, Harding CO, Gillingham MB. Effects of fasting, feeding and exercise on plasma acylcarnitines among subjects with CPT2D, VLCADD and LCHADD/TFPD. Mol Genet Metab. 2020;131(1-2):90-97

Performance

Method Description

Six internal standards of known concentration (d3-acetylcarnitine, d3-propionylcarnitine, d7-butyrylcarnitine, d3-octanoylcarnitine, d3-dodecanoylcarnitine, and d3-palmitoyl-carnitine) and acetonitrile for deproteinization are added to plasma. The supernate is dried and then treated with n-butanolic HCl yielding the acylcarnitines, which are analyzed as their n-butylesters by electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry. The concentrations of the analytes are established by computerized comparison of these analytes' ion intensities to those of the closest internal standard.(Van Hove JL, Kahler SG, Feezor MD, et al. Acylcarnitines in plasma and blood spots of patients with long-chain 3-hydroxyacylcoenzyme A dehydrogenase deficiency. J Inherit Metab Dis. 2000;23[6]:571-582; Miller MJ, Cusmano-Ozog K, Oglesbee D, Young S; ACMG Laboratory Quality Assurance Committee. Laboratory analysis of acylcarnitines, 2020 update: a technical standard of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics [ACMG]. Genet Med. 2021;23[2]:249-258)

PDF Report

No

Day(s) Performed

Monday through Friday

Report Available

2 to 5 days

Specimen Retention Time

1 month

Performing Laboratory Location

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

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

82017

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
ACRN	Acylcarnitines, Quantitative, P	43433-2

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
82413	Acylcarnitines, Quantitative, P	46252-3
10288	Acetylcarnitine, C2	30191-1
10289	Propionylcarnitine, C3	30551-6
10290	Iso-/Butyrylcarnitine, C4	43243-5
10293	Isovaleryl-/2-Methylbutyrylcarn C5	30531-8
10295	Hexanoylcarnitine, C6	30358-6
10297	3-OH-hexanoylcarnitine, C6-OH	30236-4
10298	Octenoylcarnitine, C8:1	30541-7
10299	Octanoylcarnitine, C8	30540-9
10301	Decenoylcarnitine, C10:1	30328-9
10302	Decanoylcarnitine, C10	30327-1
10304	Glutarylcarnitine, C5-DC	30349-5
10305	Dodecenoylcarnitine, C12:1	30332-1
10306	Dodecanoylcarnitine, C12	30331-3
10307	3-OH-dodecanoylcarnitine, C12-OH	30233-1
10308	Tetradecadienoylcarnitine, C14:2	30564-9

10309	Tetradecenoylcarnitine, C14:1	30566-4
10310	Tetradecanoylcarnitine, C14	30565-6
10311	3-OH-tetradecenoylcarnitine C14:1OH	30190-3
10312	3-OH-tetradecanoylcarnitine, C14-OH	30238-0
10313	Hexadecenoylcarnitine, C16:1	30357-8
10314	Hexadecanoylcarnitine, C16	30356-0
10315	3-OH-hexadecenoylcarnitine,C16:1-OH	30235-6
10316	3-OH-hexadecanoylcarnitine, C16-OH	30234-9
10317	Octadecadienoylcarnitine, C18:2	30534-2
10318	Octadecenoylcarnitine, C18:1	30542-5
10319	Octadecanoylcarnitine, C18	30560-7
10320	3-OH-octadecadienoylcarn, C18:2-OH	30237-2
10321	3-OH-octadecenoylcarnitine C18:1-OH	30312-3
10322	Comment (ACRN)	48767-8
36497	Acrylylcarnitine, C3:1	43235-1
36498	Formiminoglutamate, FIGLU	79628-4
36499	Tiglylcarnitine, C5:1	51416-6
36500	3-OH-iso-/butyrylcarnitine, C4-OH	39000-5
36501	Hexenoylcarnitine, C6:1	74540-6
36502	3-OH-isovalerylcarnitine, C5-OH	39001-3
36503	Benzoylcarnitine	39615-0
36504	Heptanoylcarnitine, C7	55871-8
36505	Phenylacetylcarnitine	90237-9
36506	Salicylcarnitine	90238-7
36507	Malonylcarnitine, C3-DC	55940-1
36508	Decadienoylcarnitine, C10:2	53471-9
36509	Methylmalonyl-/succinylcarn, C4-DC	51415-8
36510	3-OH-decenoylcarnitine, C10:1-OH	82478-9
36511	3-Methylglutarylcarnitine, C6-DC	39002-1
36512	3-OH-dodecenoylcarnitine, C12:1-OH	59195-8
36513	Octanedioylcarnitine, C8-DC	39014-6
36514	Dodecanedioylcarnitine, C12-DC	55855-1
36515	3-OH-octadecanoylcarnitine, C18-OH	35656-8