



# Test Definition: FLUC

5-Flucytosine, Serum

## Overview

### Useful For

Monitoring serum concentration during therapy

Evaluating potential toxicity

May aid in evaluating patient compliance

### Method Name

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

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Serum

### Specimen Required

**Supplies:** Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)

**Collection Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** Red top

**Acceptable:** Serum gel

**Submission Container/Tube:** Plastic vial

**Specimen Volume:** 0.5 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Serum for a peak level should be collected 1 to 2 hours after oral dose, 1 hour after intramuscular dose, or 30 minutes after intravenous infusion. Trough specimens should be collected immediately prior to next scheduled dose.
2. Within 2 hours of collection, centrifuge, and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

### Forms

If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Therapeutics Test Request](#) (T831) with the specimen.

### Specimen Minimum Volume

0.3 mL

### Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	OK
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Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Refrigerated (preferred)	28 days	
	Ambient	28 days	
	Frozen	28 days	

**Clinical & Interpretive****Clinical Information**

Flucytosine is a broad-spectrum antifungal agent generally used in combined therapy (often with amphotericin B) for treatment of fungal infections such as cryptococcal meningitis. Concerns with toxicity (ie, bone marrow suppression, hepatic dysfunction) and development of fungal resistance limit the use of flucytosine, particularly as a monotherapy. The drug is well-absorbed orally but can also be administered intravenously (available outside of the United States).

There is good correlation between serum concentrations of flucytosine with both efficacy and risk for toxicity. Because of the drug's short half-life (3-6 hours), therapeutic monitoring is typically performed at peak levels approximately 2 hours after an oral dose or 30 minutes after an intravenous administration.

Flucytosine is eliminated primarily as unmetabolized drug in urine. Patients with kidney dysfunction may require dose adjustments or more frequent monitoring to ensure that serum concentrations do not accumulate to excessive levels. Nephrotoxicity associated with use of amphotericin B can affect elimination of flucytosine when the drugs are coadministered.

**Reference Values**

Therapeutic concentration:

Peak >25.0 mcg/mL (difficult infections may require higher concentrations)

Toxic concentration:

Peak >100.0 mcg/mL

**Interpretation**

Most individuals display optimal response to flucytosine when peak serum levels (1-2 hours after oral dosing) are greater than 25.0 mcg/mL. Some infections may require higher concentrations for efficacy. Toxicity is more likely when peak serum concentrations are greater than 100.0 mcg/mL

**Cautions**

This test cannot be performed on whole blood.

Serum must be separated from cells within 2 hours of collection.

**Clinical Reference**

1. Milone MC, Shaw LM. Therapeutic drugs and their management. In: Rifai N, Chiu RWK, Young I, Burnham CAD, Wittwer CT, eds. Tietz Textbook of Laboratory Medicine. 7th ed. Elsevier; 2023:420-453
2. Goodwin ML, Drew RH. Antifungal serum concentration monitoring: an update. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2008;61(1):17-25. doi:10.1093/jac/dkm389
3. Andes D, Pascual A, Marchetti O. Antifungal therapeutic drug monitoring: established and emerging indications. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2009;53(1):24-34. doi:10.1128/AAC.00705-08

## Performance

### Method Description

5-Flucytosine is extracted by mixing serum samples with an acetonitrile and methanol mixture to precipitate proteins. The supernatant is removed and analyzed by an in-house developed liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry method.(Unpublished Mayo method)

### PDF Report

No

### Day(s) Performed

Tuesday, Thursday

### Report Available

3 to 8 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

80299

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
FLUC	5-Flucytosine, S	3639-2

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
82741	5-Flucytosine, S	3639-2