MAYO CLINIC LABORATORIES

Test Definition: BIOTS

Biotinidase, Serum

Overview

Useful For

Preferred test for the diagnosis of biotinidase deficiency

Follow-up testing for certain organic acidurias

Genetics Test Information

Preferred test to rule out biotinidase deficiency.

Special Instructions

- Informed Consent for Genetic Testing
- Biochemical Genetics Patient Information
- Informed Consent for Genetic Testing (Spanish)

Highlights

Enzymatic testing for the diagnosis of biotinidase deficiency, usually in follow-up to an abnormal newborn screen.

Method Name

Colorimetric

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Serum

Ordering Guidance

Molecular testing is available, see BTD / Biotinidase Deficiency, *BTD* Gene Sequencing with Deletion/Duplication, Varies.

If measurement of biotin concentration is requested, order BIOTN / Biotin, Serum.

Specimen Required

Patient Preparation:

Fasting: 4 Hours, recommended but not required

Supplies: Sarstedt Aliquot Tube, 5 mL (T914)

Collection Container/Tube:

Preferred: Serum gel

Acceptable: Red top

Submission Container/Tube: Plastic vial

Specimen Volume: 1 mL Serum
Collection Instructions: Centrifuge and aliquot serum into a plastic vial.

Forms

1. **New York Clients-Informed consent is required.** Document on the request form or electronic order that a copy is on file. The following documents are available:
-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing (T576)
-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing-Spanish (T826)
2. Biochemical Genetics Patient Information (T602)
3. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a Biochemical Genetics Test Request (T798) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

Serum: 0.5 mL

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject
Gross lipemia	OK
Gross icterus	OK

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Serum	Frozen (preferred)	21 days	
	Refrigerated	5 days	

Clinical & Interpretive

Clinical Information

Biotinidase deficiency is an autosomal recessive disorder caused by disease-causing variants in the *BTD* gene. Age of onset and clinical phenotype vary among individuals depending on the amount of residual biotinidase activity.

Untreated profound biotinidase deficiency typically manifests within the first decade of life as seizures, ataxia, developmental delay, hypotonia, sensorineural hearing loss, vision problems, skin rash, and alopecia. Partial biotinidase deficiency is associated with a milder clinical presentation and may include cutaneous symptoms without neurologic involvement. Certain organic acidurias, such as holocarboxylase synthase deficiency, isolated carboxylase synthase deficiency, and 3-methylcrotonylglycinuria, present similarly to biotinidase deficiency. Serum biotinidase levels can help rule out these disorders.

Treatment with biotin is successful in preventing the clinical features associated with biotinidase deficiency. In symptomatic patients, treatment will reverse many of the clinical features except developmental delay, vision, and hearing complications. As a result, biotinidase deficiency is included in most newborn screening programs. This enables

early identification and treatment of presymptomatic patients.

Molecular tests are useful for confirmation of diagnosis or carrier testing. When biotinidase enzyme activity is deficient, sequencing of the entire *BTD* gene (BTD / Biotinidase Deficiency, *BTD* Gene Sequencing with Deletion/Duplication, Varies) allows for detection of disease-causing variants in affected patients. While genotype-phenotype correlations are not well established, it appears that certain genetic variants are associated with profound biotinidase deficiency, while others are associated with partial deficiency.

Reference Values
3.5-13.8 U/L

Interpretation
Values below 3.5 U/L are occasionally seen in specimens from unaffected patients.

Cautions
A diet high in biotin may result in normal clinical presentation even when the biotinidase level is low.

Assay interference may occur for specimens collected when the patient is being treated with a sulfa drug.

Clinical Reference
1. ACMG Newborn Screening ACT Sheets. Accessed March 11, 2026. Available at www.acmg.net/ACMG/Medical-Genetics-Practice-Resources/ACT_Sheets_and_Algorithms/ACMG/Medical-Genetics-Practice-Resources/ACT_Sheets_and_Algorithms.aspx?hkey=9d6bce5a-182e-42a6-84a5-b2d88240c508
2. Zempleni J, Barshop BA, Cordonier EL, et al. Disorders of biotin metabolism. In: Valle D, Antonarakis S, Ballabio A, Beaudet AL, Mitchell GA, eds. The Online Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Diseases. McGraw-Hill; Accessed March 11, 2026. Available at https://ommbid.mhmedical.com/content.aspx?sectionid=225548571
3. Wolf B. Biotinidase deficiency. In: Adam MP, Bick S, Mirzaa GM, et al., eds. GeneReviews [Internet]. University of Washington, Seattle; 2000. Updated February 19, 2026. Accessed March 11, 2026. Available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1322/

Performance

Method Description
Biotinidase activity is determined colorimetrically by measuring p-aminobenzoate liberation from N-biotinyl-p-aminobenzoate at 546 nm. Activity is determined from a standard curve of p-aminobenzoic acid. Modified Sigma substrate is used.(Wolf B, Grier RE, Allen RJ, et al. Biotinidase deficiency: the enzymatic defect in late-onset carboxylase deficiency. Clin Chim Acta. 1983;131[3]:273-281; Cowan T, Pasquali M. Laboratory investigations of inborn errors of metabolism. In: Sarafoglou K, Hoffman GF, Roth KS, eds. Pediatric Endocrinology and Inborn Errors of Metabolism. 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill; 2017:1139-1158)

PDF Report
No

Day(s) Performed

Monday, Thursday

Report Available
2 to 5 days

Specimen Retention Time
30 days

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
82261

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
BIOTS	Biotinidase, S	1982-8

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
50672	Biotinidase, S	1982-8
50673	Interpretation	59462-2
50675	Reviewed By	18771-6