Aluminum measurement, dialysis fluid

What is this test?

This test measures the amount of the aluminum in dialysis fluid. It is used to monitor for risk of aluminum toxicity from the levels of aluminum used in dialysis[1].

Why do I need this test?

Laboratory tests may be done for many reasons. Tests are performed for routine health screenings or if a disease or toxicity is suspected. Lab tests may be used to determine if a medical condition is improving or worsening. Lab tests may also be used to measure the success or failure of a medication or treatment plan. Lab tests may be ordered for professional or legal reasons. The following is a possible reason why this test may be done:

Kidney dialysis

When and how often should I have this test?

When and how often laboratory tests are done may depend on many factors. The timing of laboratory tests may rely on the results or completion of other tests, procedures, or treatments. Lab tests may be performed immediately in an emergency, or tests may be delayed as a condition is treated or monitored. A test may be suggested or become necessary when certain signs or symptoms appear.

Due to changes in the way your body naturally functions through the course of a day, lab tests may need to be performed at a certain time of day. If you have prepared for a test by changing your food or fluid intake, lab tests may be timed in accordance with those changes. Timing of tests may be based on increased and decreased levels of medications, drugs or other substances in the body.

The age or gender of the person being tested may affect when and how often a lab test is required. Chronic or progressive conditions may need ongoing monitoring through the use of lab tests. Conditions that worsen and improve may also need frequent monitoring. Certain tests may be repeated to obtain a series of results, or tests may need to be repeated to confirm or disprove results. Timing and frequency of lab tests may vary if they are performed for professional or legal reasons.

How should I get ready for the test?

Ask the healthcare worker for information about how to prepare for this test.

How is the test done?

This test is performed on the fluid used during dialysis. Ask the healthcare worker for information about how a sample of dialysis fluid is collected for this test.

How will the test feel?

This test usually causes no discomfort.

What should I do after the test?

There are no special instructions to follow after this test.

What are the risks?

Ask the healthcare worker to explain the risks of this test or procedure to you before it is performed.

What are normal results for this test?

Laboratory test results may vary depending on your age, gender, health history, the method used for the test, and many other factors. If your results are different from the results suggested below, this may not mean that you have a disease. Contact your healthcare worker if you have any questions. The following is considered to be a normal result for this test:

Dialysate: <2 mcg of aluminum/L [1][2]

What follow up should I do after this test?

There is usually no follow up required after this test.

Where can I get more information?

Related Companies

National Toxicology Program
American Kidney Fund

References

1. Cannata-Andia JB & Fernandez-Martin JL: The clinical impact of aluminium overload in renal failure. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2002; 17 (Suppl 2):9-12.
2. Fernandez-Martin JL, Canteros A, Alles A, et al: Aluminum exposure in chronic renal failure in iberoamerica at the end of the 1990s: overview and perspectives. Am J Med Sci 2000; 320(2):96 -99.