

ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: August 8, 2011

Dear Valued Client:

Foundation Laboratory is pleased to announce that effective August 8, 2011 Free PSA assay will be performed in-house.

Prostate-specific antigen (PSA), also known as kallikrein III, seminin, seminogelase, gamma-seminoprotein and P-30 antigen because various names were assigned to this glycoprotein by various investigators. PSA is a 34kD glycoprotein produced almost exclusively by the prostate gland. PSA is produced for the ejaculate where it liquefies the semen in the seminal coagulum and allows sperm to swim freely. It is also believed to be instrumental in dissolving the cervical mucus cap, allowing the entry of sperm. The first commercial PSA test was introduced in February of 1986 to aid in early detection of prostate cancer. Increased levels of PSA may suggest the presence of prostate cancer; however, prostate cancer can also be present in the complete absence of an elevated PSA level, in which case the test result would be a false negative. Obesity has been reported to reduce serum PSA levels; therefore, delayed early detection may partially explain worse outcomes in obese men with early prostate cancer.

Most PSA in the blood is bound to serum proteins. A small amount is not protein bound and can be found in serum as free-PSA. In men with prostate cancer the ratio of free-PSA to total PSA is decreased. The risk of cancer increases if the free to total ratio is less than 25%. The lower the ratio the greater the probability of prostate cancer. Measuring the ratio of free to total PSA appears to be particularly promising for eliminating unnecessary biopsies in men with PSA levels between 4 and 10 ng/mL. However, both total and free PSA increase immediately after ejaculation or in prostatitis, benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and after digital rectal examination (DRE) which is considered false positive results.

Specimen Requirements:

- Minimum of 1 ml serum specimen (SST)
- Refrigerated < 48hrs or Frozen > 48hrs

Turn Around Time:

- Test performed on Tuesday and Friday
- 4 days

A copy of this announcement may be found at www.foundationlaboratory.com/technical_news.html

Sincerely,

Reza M. Massoumi, Ph.D.
Laboratory Manager