

TRANSFERRIN

Summary

Transferrin is responsible for 50% to 70% of the iron binding capacity of serum. Since other proteins may bind iron, transferrin is not the same as TIBC. Transferrin is an iron transport protein receiving and binding iron for delivery to receptors at recipient cells. The human transferrin gene, responsible for production of this single chain, 77 kilodalton polypeptide resides on chromosome 3, band q21-25. Transferrin has two iron-binding sites and is largely but not exclusively synthesized by the liver. There are over 20 genetic variants, largely single amino acid substitutions.

Transferrin levels rise with iron deficiency and fall in cases of iron overload.

Transferrin Levels

- Increased in iron deficiency anemia.
- Decreased in chronic inflammatory states, hereditary atransferrinemia, some instances of acquired liver disease, neoplasia, and renal disease.
- Transferrin is an index of general nutritional status.

MED HEALTH SERVICES LABORATORY is pleased to introduce **TRANSFERRIN to the ANEMIA PROFILE**. Testing is performed by automated robotic immunoassay in our new state of the art laboratory located in Monroeville, PA. Transferrin may also be ordered individually under the chemistry section of the MHS Order Requisition.

When attempting to diagnose iron deficiency and iron overload, many physicians rely on Transferrin Level testing due to its high specificity and sensitivity and quick turn-around time for results.

Please collect specimen in a regular SST tube. No special handling necessary.

