

**Diagnostic reagent for the quantitative in vitro determination of iron in human serum and plasma on photometric systems**

**TEST PARAMETERS**

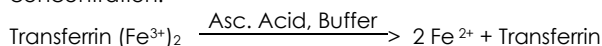
Method: Colorimetric, endpoint, increasing reaction, Ferene  
Wavelength: 595 nm, 600 nm, Hg 623 nm  
Temperature: 20 – 25 °C, 37 °C  
Sample: Serum, heparin plasma  
Linearity: up to 1000 µg/dL (179 µmol/L)  
Sensitivity: The lower limit of detection is 5 µg/dL (0.9 µmol/L)

**SUMMARY [1,2]**

Iron exists in the body as a component of haemoglobin and myoglobin as well as bound to transferrin for the transport in plasma and stored in ferritin. Increased iron concentrations occur in hemochromatosis and liver damage. Malabsorption due to gastrointestinal diseases can cause decreased iron levels, and may thus lead to anemia. Blood loss after gastrointestinal lesions or heavy menstrual bleeding can generate anemia, too.

**TEST PRINCIPLE**

Iron bound to transferrin is released in an acidic medium as ferric iron and is then reduced to ferrous iron in the presence of ascorbic acid. Ferrous iron forms a blue complex with Ferene. The absorbance at 595 nm is directly proportional to the iron concentration.



**REAGENT COMPOSITION**

COMPONENTS	CONCENTRATION
<b>Reagent 1:</b>	
Acetate Buffer, pH 4.5	1 mol/L
Thiourea	120 mmol/L
<b>Reagent 2:</b>	
Ascorbic Acid	240 mmol/L
Ferene	3 mmol/L
Thiourea	120 mmol/L

**REAGENT PREPARATION**

Reagents are ready to use.

**REAGENT STABILITY AND STORAGE**

Conditions: Protect from light (R2)  
Close immediately after use  
Do not freeze the reagents!  
Avoid contamination.  
Storage: at 2 – 8 °C  
Stability: up to the expiration date

**SAMPLE STABILITY AND STORAGE**

Separate serum/plasma at the latest 2 h after blood collection to minimize haemolysis.  
Stability [3]: at 20 - 25 °C 7 days  
at 4 - 8 °C 3 weeks  
at -20 °C 1 year  
Discard contaminated specimens. Freeze only once!

**MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED**

NaCl solution (9 g/L)  
General laboratory equipment

**STANDARD**

(not included in the kit – has to be ordered separately)  
Concentration: 100 µg/dL (17.9 µmol/L)  
Storage: 2 – 25 °C  
Stability: up to the expiration date  
Close immediately after use! Avoid contamination.  
Protect from light!

**MANUAL TEST PROCEDURE**

Bring reagents and samples to room temperature.

Pipette into test tubes	Blank	Std./ Cal.	Sample
Sample	-	-	100 µL
Standard Calibrator	-	100 µL	-
Distilled Water	100 µL	-	-
Reagent 1	1000 µL	1000 µL	1000 µL
Mix, read absorbance A1 after 1 - 5 min against reagent blank. Then add:			
Reagent 2	250 µL	250 µL	250 µL
Mix, read absorbance A2 after 10 min. against reagent blank. $\Delta A = [(A2 - 0.82 A1) \text{ Sample or Std./Cal.}]$			

The Factor 0.82 compensates the decrease of the absorbance by addition of reagent 2. The factor is calculated as follows: (sample + R1) / total volume.

**CALCULATION**

$$\text{Iron } [\mu\text{g/dL}] = \frac{\Delta A \text{ sample}}{\Delta A \text{ std/cal}} \times \text{Conc. Std/Cal } [\mu\text{g/dL}]$$

**UNIT CONVERSION**

$$\mu\text{g/dL} \times 0.1791 = \mu\text{mol/L}$$

**REFERENCE RANGE [4]\***

	µg/dL	µmol/L
<b>Children</b>	2 weeks	63 – 201
	6 months	28 – 135
	12 months	35 – 155
	2 – 12 years	22 – 135
<b>Females</b>	25 years	37 – 165
	40 years	23 – 134
	60 years	39 – 149
<b>Pregnant women</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> gestational week	42 – 177
	at term	25 – 137
	6 weeks postpartum	16 – 150
<b>Males</b>	25 years	40 – 155
	40 years	35 – 168
	60 years	40 – 120

\* Each laboratory should check if the reference ranges are transferable to its own patient population and determine own reference ranges if necessary.

**PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS**

**LINEARITY, MEASURING RANGE**

The test has been developed to determine iron concentrations within a measuring range from 5 – 1000 µg/dL (0.9 – 179 µmol/L). When values exceed this value samples should be diluted 1 + 2 with NaCl solution (9 g/L) and the result multiplied by 3.

**SENSITIVITY/LIMIT OF DETECTION**



The lower limit of detection is 5 µg/dL (0.9 µmol/L).

**PRECISION**

Intra-assay n = 20	Mean [µg/dL]	SD [µg/dL]	CV [%]
Sample 1	98.0	1.00	1.02
Sample 2	164	2.01	1.22
Sample 3	216	2.11	0.98
Inter-assay n = 20	Mean [µg/dL]	SD [µg/dL]	CV [%]
Sample 1	85.8	2.13	2.48
Sample 2	144	3.16	2.19
Sample 3	195	3.86	1.98

**SPECIFICITY/INTERFERENCES**

no interference up to:

Bilirubin	60 mg/dL
Hemoglobin	100 mg/dL
Triglyceride	2000 mg/dL
Copper	200 µg/dL
Zinc	400 µg/dL

For further information on interfering substances refer to Young DS [7].

**METHOD COMPARISON**

A comparison between this Iron Ferene (y) and a commercially available test (x) using 70 samples gave following results:  
y = 0.99 x – 0.33 µg/dL; r = 0.999.

**CALIBRATION**

The assay requires the use of an Iron Standard or Calibrator.

**QUALITY CONTROL**

Control sera with iron values determined by this method can be used.

Each laboratory should establish corrective action in case of deviations in control recovery.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- Reagent 1: Danger.  
H315: Causes skin irritation.  
H318: Causes serious eye damage.  
P264: Wash hands and face thoroughly after handling.  
P280: Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.  
P305+P351+P338: If in eyes: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.  
P310: Immediately call a poison center or doctor/physician.
- Standard: Warning.  
H290: May be corrosive to metals.  
P234: Keep only in original container.  
P280: Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.  
P390: Absorb spillage to prevent material damage.
- Use only disposable material to avoid iron contamination. Rinse glass material with diluted HCl and copious dist. water.
- In very rare cases, samples of patients with gammopathy might give falsified results [8].
- Please refer to the safety data sheets and take the necessary precautions for the use of laboratory reagents.
- For diagnostic purposes, the results should always be assessed with the patient's medical history, clinical examinations and other findings.
- For professional use only!

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Please refer to local legal requirements.

**REFERENCES**

- Wick M. Iron metabolism and its disorders. In: Thomas L, editor. Clinical laboratory diagnostics. 1 st ed. Frankfurt: TH-Books Verlagsgesellschaft; 1998. p. 268-73.
- Fairbanks VF, Klee GG. Biochemical aspects of hematology. In: Burtis CA, Ashwood ER, editors. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry. 3 rd ed. Philadelphia: W.B Saunders Company; 1999. p. 1642-1710.
- Guder WG, Zawta B et al. The quality of Diagnostic Samples. 1st ed. Darmstadt: GIT Verlag; 2001; p34-5
- Thomas L. Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics. 1st ed. Frankfurt: TH-Books Verlagsgesellschaft; 1998. p. 273-5
- Higgins T. Novel chromogen for serum iron determinations. Clin Chem 1981;27:1619.
- Artiss JD, Vinogradov S, Zak B. Spectrophotometric study of several sensitive reagents for serum iron. Clin Biochem 1981;14:311-15.
- Young DS. Effects of Drugs on Clinical laboratory Tests. 5th ed. Volume 1 and 2. Washington, DC: The American Association for Clinical Chemistry Press 2000.
- Bakker AJ, Mücke M. Gammopathy interference in clinical chemistry assays: mechanisms, detection and prevention. ClinChemLabMed 2007; 45(9): 1240-1243.

**Symbols used on labels and packaging**

- = In vitro diagnostic medical device
- = Catalogue Number
- = Lot Number
- = Manufacturer
- = Expiration date
- = Temperature limitation
- = Instruction for use

