Procalcitonon (PCT)

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Date & Time of Export: 17 June 2026 01:23

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TEST OVERVIEW

Test Name	Procalcitonon
Test Code	PCT
Short Description	Procalcitonon

OVERVIEW

Test Name	Procalcitonon
Test Code	PCT
Category	Immunoassay
TAT	Main Lab: 4 Hour(s) Family Site: <5hrs, <4hrs
Specimen(s)	1 x Venous blood - 5 mL Tube - Gold - SST-Serum Separator Tube

SPECIMEN(S)

SST-Serum Separator Tube

Specimen Type	SST-Serum Separator Tube
Specimen Format	Tube
Specimen Colour	Gold
Specimen Volume	5 mL
Sampling Order	2
Origin	Venous blood
Collection time after baseline	-
Transport Temperature	15-25°C
Accepted Other Specimens	EDTA Plasma Serum Lithium Heparin Plasma

	Sodium Heparin Plasma
TAT	Main Lab: 4 Hour(s) Family Site: <5hrs, <4hrs
Test Stability	Room Temp: 12 Hour(s) 2–8°C: 24 Hour(s)

CLINICAL INFORMATION

Procalcitonon

Methodology	-
Specimen Type	SST-Serum Separator Tube
Delay before pre-treatment	2
Transport Temperature	15-25°C
Transport Stability at room temp	12 Hours
Transport Stability at 2–8°C	24 Hours
Haemolysis interference	No

Clinical Interest

Procalcitonin (PCT) is a precursor of the hormone calcitonin and is produced by the thyroid gland under normal conditions. However, in response to a systemic bacterial infection, various tissues start producing PCT, leading to elevated levels in the blood. PCT is a highly specific biomarker for bacterial infections and sepsis.

PCT levels rise rapidly within 2-4 hours of bacterial infection onset. Higher PCT levels correlate with the severity of sepsis and the systemic inflammatory response, providing insight into the patient's condition.

Unlike other inflammatory markers such as C-reactive protein (CRP) or white blood cell count, PCT levels are more specifically elevated in bacterial infections rather than viral infections or non-infectious inflammatory conditions.

PCT assays are useful in guiding the initiation and discontinuation of antibiotic therapy. Elevated PCT levels can indicate the need for starting antibiotic treatment in patients with suspected bacterial infections. Declining PCT levels during treatment suggest a response to antibiotics and can help guide the safe discontinuation of antibiotics, reducing unnecessary antibiotic use and resistance.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Clinical Information Required	-
Patient Collection Notes	-

COMMENTS & NOTES

LOINC Code	241-0, 75241-0, 33959-8

Outwork	No