Free Testosterone Index (FTI)

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TEST OVERVIEW

Test Name	Free Testosterone Index
Test Code	FTI
Short Description	FTI

OVERVIEW

Test Name	Free Testosterone Index
Test Code	FTI
Category	Immunoassay
TAT	Main Lab: 4 Hour(s) Family Site: <4hrs
Specimen(s)	1 x N/A - - mL - - - - N/A 1 x Venous blood - 5 mL Tube - Gold - SST

SPECIMEN(S)

N/A

Specimen Type	N/A
Specimen Format	-
Specimen Colour	-
Specimen Volume	- mL
Sampling Order	-
Origin	N/A
Collection time after baseline	-
Transport Temperature	-
Accepted Other Specimens	Serum Sodium Fluoride Plasma

	Lithium Heparin Plasma
TAT	Main Lab: 4 Hour(s) Family Site: <4hrs
Test Stability	Room Temp: - 2–8°C: -

SST

Specimen Type	SST
Specimen Format	Tube
Specimen Colour	Gold
Specimen Volume	5 mL
Sampling Order	2
Origin	Venous blood
Collection time after baseline	-
Transport Temperature	-
Accepted Other Specimens	Serum Sodium Fluoride Plasma Lithium Heparin Plasma
TAT	Main Lab: 4 Hour(s) Family Site: <4hrs
Test Stability	Room Temp: - 2–8°C: -

CLINICAL INFORMATION

Free Testosterone Index

Methodology	-
Specimen Type	N/A SST
Delay before pre-treatment	-
Transport Temperature	-
Transport Stability at room temp	- -
Transport Stability at 2–8°C	- -
Haemolysis interference	No

Clinical Interest

SHBG is a glycoprotein that transports testosterone and estradiol in the blood. SHBG is synthesised in the liver and has a high binding affinity with 17-hydroxysteroid hormones.

Less than 2% of biologically active steroids are free in the circulation, the remainder being bound mainly to SHBG and albumin.

The concentration of SHBG in plasma is regulated by, among other things, the androgen/estrogen balance, thyroid hormones, insulin

and dietary factors.
SHBG production is stimulated by oestradiol and inhibited by testosterone. As a result, SHBG concentrations are higher in women than in men.

Pregnant women have significantly higher serum SHBG levels due to their increased oestrogen production.

Plasma SHBG levels are influenced by a number of medical conditions, with elevated levels observed in hyperthyroidism, hypogonadism, androgen insensitivity and liver cirrhosis in men. Low levels are seen in myxedema, hyperprolactinaemia and excessive androgen activity syndromes.

Measurement of SHBG is useful in the assessment of mild disorders of androgen metabolism and can identify women with hirsutism who are more likely to respond to oestrogen therapy.

The ratio of testosterone to SHBG is also known as the Free Androgen Index (FAI) or the Free Testosterone Index (FTI). This ratio correlates closely with measured and calculated values of free testosterone and can be used to distinguish subjects with excessive androgen activity from normal individuals.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Clinical Information Required	-
Patient Collection Notes	-

COMMENTS & NOTES

LOINC Code	125-7, 24125-7
Outwork	No