# Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) (CEA)

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| Source: | Cerba Lancet Africa |
| View our website: | cerbalancetafrica.com |
| Date & Time of Export: | 23 November 2026 04:16 |

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## TEST OVERVIEW

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| **Test Name** | Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) |
| **Test Code** | CEA |
| **Short Description** | CEA |

## OVERVIEW

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|---|---|
| **Test Name** | Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) |
| **Test Code** | CEA |
| **Category** | Immunoassay |
| **TAT** | Main Lab: 6, 8 Hour(s)<br>Family Site: <8hrs, <6hrs |
| **Specimen(s)** | 1 x Venous blood - 5 mL Tube - Gold - SST |

## SPECIMEN(S)

### SST

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|---|---|
| **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** | 2-8°C |
| **Accepted Other Specimens** | Serum<br>Lithium Heparin Plasma<br>Sodium Heparin Plasma |

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|---|---|
| **TAT** | Main Lab: 6, 8 Hour(s)<br>Family Site: <8hrs, <6hrs |
| **Test Stability** | Room Temp: 24 Hour(s)<br>2–8°C: 7 Day(s) |

## CLINICAL INFORMATION

### Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA)

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| **Methodology** | - |
| **Specimen Type** | SST |
| **Delay before pre-treatment** | 6 |
| **Transport Temperature** | 2-8°C |
| **Transport Stability at room temp** | 24 Hours |
| **Transport Stability at 2–8°C** | 7 Day |
| **Haemolysis interference** | No |

### Clinical Interest

The **CEA (Carcinoembryonic Antigen)** assay is most often used as a tumour marker in colorectal cancer (CRC).
It is useful for monitoring patients after treatment (surgery, chemotherapy) rather than as a diagnostic tool.

A decrease in CEA levels after surgery or chemotherapy may be a sign that the treatment is effective and that the tumour burden has decreased.

Persistent or increased CEA levels during or after treatment may suggest residual disease or recurrence.
Although CEA levels may be elevated in colorectal cancer, they are not sufficiently specific or sensitive for routine screening or diagnosis of CRC. Elevated CEA levels can also be observed in other cancers and in benign conditions.

CEA may be elevated in certain benign conditions, such as:

- Smoking (smokers tend to have higher CEA levels).
- Inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis)
- liver disease (cirrhosis, hepatitis).

CEA results must be interpreted with caution depending on the clinical context and diagnostic tests.

## PATIENT INFORMATION

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|---|---|
| **Clinical Information Required** | - |
| **Patient Collection Notes** | - |

## COMMENTS & NOTES

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| **LOINC Code** | 39-6, 2039-6 |
| **Outwork** | No |