Who we are

Majority owned by the NHS, but with the commercial freedom to invest in innovation, Viapath are on a mission to transform pathology services in the UK. We provide pathology services to the NHS, private hospitals and other organisations both across the country and internationally.

What we do

All of our laboratories are CPA accredited and are working towards the more stringent ISO15189 accreditation. We are committed to delivering a clinically excellent pathology service, placing quality at the core of everything we do.

TEST OVERVIEW

Description
Clozapine and norclozapine by LC-MS/MS

Clinical details
Clozapine is an atypical antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia resistant to conventional therapy. Because of the risk of agranulocytosis, white blood cell counts (WBC) are monitored weekly in the early stages of therapy and monthly thereafter. It is recommended that therapy is withheld if the WBC is less than 3,500 mm-3 and abandoned if the WBC falls below 3000 mm-3 or the granulocyte count below 1,500 mm-3. Side-effects of clozapine include lethargy, hypersalivation, constipation and somnolence. There is a risk of hypotension and seizure at higher doses. A single dose of 300-400 mg may be life-threatening in a clozapine naïve subject. Clozapine is metabolised by N-demethylation, hydroxylation and N-oxidation. The N-demethylated metabolite, norclozapine, is present in plasma at similar concentrations to the parent compound, but has a longer plasma half-life. Plasma clozapine concentrations of 0.35 mg/L and above have been associated with a good response, with the risk of convulsions increasing above 1.0 mg/L.

Reference range
0.35-0.50 mg/L.

Units
mg/L

Department
Toxicology Department

Laboratory
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Laboratory at King’s

Location
Viapath at King’s College Hospital

ORDERING INFORMATION

Sample type and Volume required
2 mL of EDTA whole blood preferred (pre-dose or ‘trough’ sample). Serum or plasma can be used if required, but please avoid gel-separator tubes.

Turnaround time
2 working days

Storage and transport
Please refrigerate (if possible) if not sending immediately. Send by first class post.

Contacts
Toxicology Department at King’s Hospital
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kch-tr.toxicology@nhs.net
King’s College Hospital
Bessemer Wing - 3rd Floor
Denmark Hill
London SE5 9RS

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020 7188 7188 (54109)
BusinessDevelopment@viapath.co.uk
FURTHER INFO

Plasma Clozapine Assay Request Form
PDF (104Kb)

How can we help?

We have a number of partnering options to suit your needs, whether you require this specific test or a range of services, we are here to help. Contact one of our friendly Business Development Managers for more information, or visit our website.