

Any Lab Test Now

AMYLASE TEST

DESCRIPTION

Amylase is an enzyme that is normally present only in very low levels in the blood. Amylase, along with other enzymes, is produced by the pancreas to digest carbohydrates. It is released into the duodenum (the first part of the small intestines) in the digestive tract where it assists in food breakdown. Amylase is also produced by other organs in the body, particularly, the salivary glands. When the pancreas or the salivary glands are damaged, more amylase is released into the blood during an initial or acute attack of pancreatitis. Levels lower if the infection is not treated or the main causes of the damage to the pancreas continues so that amylase is not produced in enough quantity to digest the food leading to weight loss caused by malabsorption of food.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

An Amylase test may be ordered when a person exhibits symptoms of pancreatitis (an infection of the pancreas). These symptoms include severe abdominal or back pain, nausea, fever or loss of appetite. With acute pancreatitis (short term or new onset) amylase levels may rise to as high as 4 to 6 times the normal level. Levels usually stay high until the cause of the infection has been treated. With long term pancreatitis or with pancreatic cancer the levels may rise initially and then gradually lower which would indicate long term damage to the pancreas.

Chronic pancreatitis is often associated with alcoholism, or may indicate a trauma to the pancreas or cystic fibrosis. Other causes could be gallstones, cystic fibrosis, high triglycerides or certain medications. If left untreated damage to the insulin producing cells of the pancreas which could lead to diabetes. The severity of pancreatitis can be mildly uncomfortable to severe and life threatening leading to bleeding into the pancreas, serious tissue damage, cysts and could harm other vital organs including the heart, lungs and kidney.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY LAB TEST RESULTS?

Test results generally take between 24 to 72 business hours after your specimen is collected.

AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

No. You are not required to fast for this test.

WRITTEN BY:

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Ekan Essien, MD, MPH, a native Georgian, received his BA from Duke University. Dr. Essien continued his education at Florida A&M University where he received his Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology; received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee; and obtained training in general and trauma surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is a candidate in the post graduate fellowship in anti-aging and regenerative medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE YOUR TEST TODAY CALL 1.800.384.4567

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