# **Any Lab Test Now**

## **FERRITIN TEST**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Ferritin is a protein in the body that binds to iron. The level of ferritin correlates with the total amount of iron stored in the body. Ferritin is low in those with iron deficiency anemia and high when levels of iron are raised. Liver dysfunction can cause elevated ferritin levels because the liver is unable to clear it from the body. Ferritin may also be increased when the body is inflamed or an infection is present.

## WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you are always tired you may have iron deficiency anemia. This test is may be needed if other initial iron tests for hemoglobin (level of oxygen carrying protein) or hematocrit (proportion of red blood cells to the fluid component) are low. A ferritin test can confirm a diagnosis of iron deficiency anemia. It can also be used to diagnose conditions such as hemochromatosis, liver disease or adult Still's disease. Additionally, if you have been diagnosed with a condition such as hemochromatosis that causes your body to store too much iron, this test may be used to monitor your condition and guide treatment.

#### AM I REQUIRED TO FAST FOR THIS LAB TEST?

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

#### **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.

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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.