

PRE-TESTOSTERONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY PANEL

DESCRIPTION

Testosterone is a male hormone that helps to maintain bone density, fat distribution, muscle strength and mass, red blood cell production, sex drive and sperm production. As men age, levels of testosterone naturally decline by about 1% per year after age 30. Extremely low levels of testosterone may be caused by a disease (hypogonadism) in which the body isn't able to produce enough of the hormone because of a problem with the testicles or the pituitary gland which promotes testosterone production.

When a decline in testosterone impacts the ability to function due to fatigue and low energy or an inability to achieve an erection, it may be time to consider androgen replacement therapy to replace the testosterone. If you are considering this there are many bodily functions that need to be checked before you begin therapy. If you have underlying issues that have not yet been diagnosed the increase in testosterone can cause serious health problems.

WHY DO I NEED THIS TEST?

If you are considering androgen/testosterone replacement therapy you need to be aware of your overall health so that you are not surprised by new health problems that pop up once you begin therapy. These screening may uncover underlying issues so that these can be treated before you begin therapy. In some cases you will not be eligible to receive testosterone therapy if you have one of these conditions because they can cause serious symptoms and health issues. These potential issues include:

Increased PSA levels and a risk of prostate cancer

Abnormal complete blood count which can indicate blood disorders or risk of blood clots and strokes

Fluid retention and swelling if kidney and/or liver function are previously compromised

Acne

Sleep apnea

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