



Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Fetal Scalp Lactate on Nova StatStrip Point-of-Care Meter

October 3, 2017

Fetal scalp lactate on the Nova StatStrip meter: Shift in test performance & new guidance on result interpretation

For the fetal scalp lactate measurement, the point-of-care Nova StatStrip meter in use at St. Paul's Hospital, will now read 0.4 mmol/L lower on average, as compared to previous, due to introduction of a new strip lot. Commercial strip lots must be routinely replaced as the manufacturer's supplies become outdated, every year approximately, and we now understand that the average change in results, with a lot change, are typically of this magnitude. We will not be sending future bulletins to document these shifts in test performance but wanted to take this opportunity to inform the clinical users of this degree of variability in results over time i.e. a lactate result of 4.8 mmol/L should be considered as an estimate of fetal scalp lactate, which may actually range from 3.8 to 5.8 mmol/L depending on the lot in use at the time and analytical variability that exists with any lot.

With this degree of uncertainty, test results that fall anywhere within the range of 3.8 – 4.8 mmol/L, may require clinical intervention, including at a minimum a repeat fetal scalp lactate measurement. Note: this indeterminate range represents an expansion of the previous indeterminate range of 4.2 – 4.8 mmol/L.

QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions.

A. Fung

Angela Fung, PhD

Clinical Chemist, Providence Health Care
Department of Pathology & Laboratory
Medicine

afung7@providencehealth.bc.ca

Tel. 604.682.2344 Ext 63293

Andre Mattman

Andre Mattman, MD, FRCPC

Medical Biochemist, Providence Health Care
Clinical Associate Professor, UBC
Department of Pathology & Laboratory
Medicine

amattman@providencehealth.bc.ca

Tel. 604.806.8190