

Laboratory Medicine Bulletin

Method Change: Lipoprotein (a)

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As of June 27, 2014, the St. Paul's Hospital laboratory will switch the lipoprotein (a) [Lp(a)] method from the Mercodia® ELISA Lp(a) assay to the Siemens ADVIA 1800® Lp(a) immunoturbidimetric assay.

Measurement of Lp(a) concentration provides additional information on coronary heart disease (CHD) risk in patients known or suspected to be at increased risk based on other factors, including family history of premature CHD or stroke, smoking, obesity, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, increased concentration of LDL cholesterol, and decreased concentration of HDL cholesterol.

The primary benefits of the change in assay platforms are a marked improvement in turnaround time and a reduction in apo(a) size-related (i.e. kringle repeat related) biases affecting the Lp(a) result.

As a method comparison revealed only a slight bias (-1.3%) at Lp(a) concentrations near the medical decision level, the reference interval (<300 mg/L) remains unchanged. If required, the laboratory can provide a detailed regression analysis to facilitate comparison of Lp(a) results performed by the old method to those of the new method.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 604 806 8470 if you have any questions:



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