



CHECK AMMONIA

HELP PROTECT THE BRAIN

KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

HIGH AMMONIA CAN HAPPEN AT ANY AGE



**Movement disorders, seizures,
lethargy or floppiness**



**Learning problems or
development delays**



**GI presentations
Poor feeding or vomiting**



Encephalopathy



**Psychiatric
presentations**



**Alteration in
consciousness**

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AMMONIA**

ESSENTIALS STEP FOR AN ACCURATE PLASMA AMMONIA TEST

Improve accuracy and reduce the risk of false positive results by using proper procedures when conducting plasma ammonia draws

False positives can be caused by problems with sampling, transport, and analysis. Follow these steps to ensure an accurate result:

1

STAT Lab Alert

Alert the laboratory to the incoming STAT order.



2

Free-Flowing Venous Arterial Blood Sample

Collect a Free-Flowing Venous or Arterial Blood Sample. Do not use a tourniquet and keep the patient's arm as relaxed as possible.



3

Use a Lithium Heparin or EDTA Tube

Collect the blood sample in a specimen tube (preferably pre-chilled) containing either lithium heparin or EDTA as an anticoagulant.



4

Transport to Lab

Place the sample on ice. Order the sample to be handled STAT (transported to the lab and analyzed immediately).



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