



Memo to: Healthcare Personnel
From: Alverno Clinical Laboratories, General Laboratory Department
Subject: **New test beginning June 30, 2008 – Lipoprotein (a)**

We are pleased to announce a new service for our healthcare providers, Lipoprotein (a) testing.

The physiological function of Lipoprotein (a) is unknown, but recent studies indicate potential roles in the coagulation cascade and the recruitment of inflammatory cells. Lipoprotein (a) is a lipoprotein subclass that consists of an LDL-like particle and the specific apolipoprotein (a) covalently bound to the apolipoprotein (b) of the LDL-like particle.

The measurement of Lipoprotein (a), in conjunction with other lipoprotein tests, is of diagnostic significance. A high level of Lipoprotein (a) in blood is a risk factor for coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, atherosclerosis, thrombosis, and stroke.

Lipoprotein (a) levels are genetically determined and will remain fairly consistent over a lifetime; diet and exercise have little impact on Lipoprotein (a) levels. Concentrations vary over one thousand fold from < 0.2 to >200mg/dL. Levels vary by ethnicity with African-Americans having 2-3 times higher values than Caucasians. The half-life of Lipoprotein (a) in the circulation is approximately 3 to 4 days.

Commonly prescribed lipid-reducing drugs have little or no effect on Lipoprotein (a) concentration. Niacin (nicotinic acid) and aspirin are two relatively safe and inexpensive drugs known to reduce the levels of Lipoprotein (a) in some individuals with high Lipoprotein (a).

This test is FDA approved and manufactured by Beckman.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1 mL serum

Specimen stability – 48 hours refrigerated

The Soft order code is **LIPOA**.

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