Comments

The main function of Haptoglobin is to combine with the hemoglobin released by lysis of the red cells to preserve body iron and protein stores. Serum Haptoglobin rises in response to stress, infection, acute inflammation and tissue necrosis. After a hemolytic episode, Haptoglobin concentration falls as the complexes with hemoglobin are cleared from circulation. This test is also useful for serially monitoring patients who have a slow but steady rate of red cell breakdown such as by mechanical heart valves, hemoglobinopathies and exercise associated trauma.

**Increased levels** - Acute inflammation, Protein losing enteropathy, Protein losing nephropathy, Tissue necrosis, Stress

**Decreased levels** - Congenital deficiency, Hemolytic transfusion reaction, Thermal burns, Autoimmune hemolytic anemia