

<b>ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO), SERUM</b>	mIU/mL	4.30-29.00
(CLIA)		

**Note:** Certain drugs like Anabolic steroids, Amphotericin B & AZT affect EPO levels

#### Comments

Erythropoietin ( EPO) is a glycoprotein hormone that regulates erythropoiesis. Erythropoietin levels in anemia are primarily determined by the degree of anemia and not by any specific effect of the underlying illness on the production of EPO. Morning values are higher than afternoon levels due to the diurnal rhythm of EPO secretion.

#### Increased Levels

- Anemias including Aplastic anemia
- Secondary Polycythemia – high altitude hypoxia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pulmonary fibrosis
- Erythropoietin producing tumors – Cerebellar hemangioblastoma, Pheochromocytoma, Renal tumors
- Pregnancy
- Kidney transplant rejection
- Polycystic kidney disease
- Moderate bleeding in a normal individual

#### Decreased Levels

- Primary Polycythemia ( Polycythemia vera)
- Anemias secondary to inflammation, Rheumatoid arthritis & neoplasms
- Renal failure

#### Uses

- To differentiate Primary from Secondary Polycythemia
- To detect recurrence of Erythropoietin producing tumors