

FOLATE (FOLIC ACID), SERUM
(CLIA)

ng/mL

>5.38

Interpretation

RESULT IN ng/mL	REMARKS
0.35-3.37	Deficient
3.38-5.38	Indeterminate
>5.38	Normal

- Note:**
1. Drugs like Methotrexate & Leucovorin interfere with folate measurement
 2. To differentiate vitamin B12 & folate deficiency, measurement of Methyl malonic acid in urine & serum Homocysteine level is suggested
 3. Risk of toxicity from folic acid is low as it is a water soluble vitamin regularly excreted in urine

Comments

Folate plays an important role in the synthesis of purine & pyrimidines in the body and is important for the maturation of erythrocytes. It is widely available from plants and to a lesser extent organ meats, but more than half the folate content of food is lost during cooking. Folate deficiency is commonly prevalent in alcoholic liver disease, pregnancy and the elderly. It may result from poor intestinal absorption, nutrition deficiency, excessive demand as in pregnancy or in malignancy and in response to certain drugs like Methotrexate & anticonvulsants.

Decreased Levels

Megaloblastic anemia, Infantile hyperthyroidism, Alcoholism, Malnutrition, Scurvy, Liver disease, B12 deficiency, dietary amino acid excess, adult Celiac disease, Tropical Sprue, Crohn's disease, Hemolytic anemias, Carcinomas, Myelofibrosis, vitamin B6 deficiency, pregnancy, Whipple's disease, extensive intestinal resection and severe exfoliative dermatitis