

VITAMIN B12; CYANOCOBALAMIN, SERUM	pg/mL	211-911
(CLIA)		

Note: To differentiate vitamin B12 & folate deficiency, measurement of Methyl malonic acid in urine & serum Homocysteine level is suggested

Comments

Vitamin B12 performs many important functions in the body, but the most significant function is to act as co-enzyme for reducing ribonucleotides to deoxyribonucleotides, a step in the formation of genes. Inadequate dietary intake is not the commonest cause for cobalamine deficiency. The most common cause is malabsorption either due to atrophy of gastric mucosa or diseases of terminal ileum. Cobalamine deficiency leads to Megaloblastic anemia and demyelination of large nerve fibres of spinal cord. Normal body stores are sufficient to last for 3-6 years. Sources of Vitamin B12 are liver, shellfish, fish, meat, eggs, milk, cheese & yogurt.

Decreased Levels

- **Lack of Intrinsic factor:** Total or partial gastrectomy, Atrophic gastritis, Intrinsic factor antibodies
- **Malabsorption:** Regional ileitis, resected bowel, Tropical Sprue, Celiac disease, pancreatic insufficiency, bacterial overgrowth & achlorhydria
- **Loss of ingested vitamin B12:** fish tapeworm
- **Dietary deficiency:** Vegetarians
- **Congenital disorders:** Orotic aciduria & transcobalamine deficiency
- **Increased demand:** Pregnancy specially last trimester

Increased Levels

Chronic renal failure, Congestive heart failure, Acute & Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Polycythemia vera, Carcinomas with liver metastasis, Liver disease, Drug induced cholestasis & Protein malnutrition