

<b>INTRINSIC FACTOR ANTIBODY, SERUM  (EIA)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>&lt;20.00</b>
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### Interpretation

RESULT IN UNITS	REMARKS
<20	Negative
20.1-24.9	Equivocal
>=25	Positive

### Note

1. Negative result does not exclude the diagnosis of Pernicious Anaemia (PA) as only 60% of patients with PA have this antibody
2. Presence of parietal cell antibodies may or may not be concordant with that of intrinsic factor (IF) antibodies, their measurement in conjunction with IF antibodies may aid in evaluation of patients with PA

### Comment

The presence of Intrinsic Factor (IF) antibodies can be used as an aid in the diagnosis of Pernicious anaemia (PA). Patients with PA suffer from gastric mucosal atrophy most likely caused by a destructive autoimmune process. This results in diminished or absent gastric acid, pepsin and IF production. Gastric acid & pepsin are required for liberation of cobalamin (Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>) from binding protein, while IF binds with free cobalamin & facilitates its absorption in ileum. Most PA patients have autoantibodies against gastric parietal cells or IF, with the latter being more specific but present only in 60% cases. By contrast parietal cell antibodies are found in 90% of patients but found in significant proportion of patients with other autoimmune disease and 2.5 % of healthy individuals. IF antibodies are of 2 types: Type 1 blocking antibodies which prevent the binding of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to the IF molecule and Type 2 binding antibodies which may interfere with the binding of the IF-Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> complex to the ileal receptor. The assay detects both Type 1 and 2 antibodies.