

INHIBIN B

INTRODUCTION

Inhibin B is a polypeptide hormone belonging to transforming growth factor family. It is secreted by Granulosa cells of ovary and Sertoli cells of testes. It inhibits pituitary production of FSH.

NORMAL RANGE

AGE	REFERENCE RANGE IN pg/mL	
	MALES	FEMALES
< 1 month	133-196	9-31
1 month- < 1 year	195-256	23-94
1- <10 years	91-163	8-37
10- < 20 years	169-216	22-85
20- < 40 years	151.7-173.9	21-53
40- < 60 years	134.7-150.5	< 5 - 33
>60 years	126.5- 151	Non detectable

CLINICAL USE

- Aids in the diagnosis of Granulosa tumors of ovary
- Marker of male infertility
- Indicator of low ovarian reserve in perimenopausal women

INTERPRETATION

Increased Levels

- 70% cases of Granulosa cell tumors of ovary
- 20% cases of Epithelial ovarian tumors

Decreased Levels

- Ovarian ageing

LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS

- Inhibin B levels
- Ultrasonography

LIMITATIONS

1. Inhibin values fluctuate during the menstrual cycle thus levels in premenopausal women should be interpreted with caution.

2. Serum Inhibin levels should not be interpreted as absolute evidence of the presence or the absence of malignant disease. Results are to be used in conjunction with clinical evaluation of the patient and other diagnostic procedures
3. Elevation of Inhibin B after treatment is suggestive of residual, recurrent or progressive disease.