

# Beta 2 transferrin

## General:

Detection of a beta-2 transferrin, the desialated form of transferrin, is used as a marker for the presence of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). This test is important for the differential diagnosis of CSF otorrhea or CSF rhinorrhea. Beta-2 transferrin is normally not detected in serum, tears, saliva, sputum, nasal, aural fluid, or endolymph. However Beta-2 transferrin is not completely specific for CSF. It is also found in serum of patients with liver dis-ease due to chronic excessive alcohol ingestion. A serum sample is therefore necessary to exclude non-CSF caused increases of beta-2-transferrin in serum.

The following test is available:

- **Beta-2-transferrin in CSF**

Indication: Suspicion of CSF leakage, CSF in otorrhea or rhinorrhea, questionable contamination with CSF

Material: 2-3 drops CSF, e.g. from tamponade and 1ml serum sample

Preanalytics: Although results may be obtainable on smaller specimens (perhaps as little as 0.05 ml, depending on the protein concentrations and percentage of CSF in the sample), reliable results are best obtained with an adequate sample volume. If direct collection is not feasible, samples may be collected using cotton swabs

TAT: 7-10 days\*

Method: immunofixation

Ref.- range: negative

Note: Please note that a corresponding serum sample is necessary for comparison.

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit <http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/>