

# Immunoglobulin A

## General:

The secretory IgA is formed by plasma cells and is found in the lamina propria of mucous membranes. IgA occurs in body secretions such as saliva, tears, nasal fluid, tracheobronchial mucus, gastrointestinal secretions, mother's milk and colostrum. The formation of the secretory IgA is independent of the serum IgA synthesis. Thus a deficiency of serum IgA does not necessarily indicate an absence of secretory IgA. In newborns and infants, secretory IgA reflects the concentration in the mother's milk and they are therefore passively immunized against gastrointestinal infections. IgA antibodies exert an immunogenic effect on the mucous membrane surfaces and in the intercellular spaces of the mucous membranes.

Indication: Suspicion of IgA deficiency, clarification of chronic ENT infections, increased occurrence of infections of mucous membranes, atopy, humoral immunodeficiencies.

The following tests are available:

- **Immunoglobulin A, total, in serum**

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: same day

Stability: 8 months at 2 to 8°C

Method: nephelometry

Units: mg/dl

Ref.- range: see report

- **Immunoglobulin A, secretory, in saliva**

Material: 2 ml saliva

TAT: 7-10 days\*

Method: RID

Units: mg/dl

Ref.- range: 8.7 - 47.0

- **Immunoglobulin A, secretory, in stool**

Material: 5 g stool, Frozen

TAT: 7-10 days\*

Method: EIA

Units: µg/ml

Ref.- range: 510 - 2040

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