TEST: T3, FREE

PRINCIPLE:
The free fraction of the circulating triiodothyronine (T3) is considered to exert the main influence on metabolic control. In hyperthyroidism, FT3 concentrations are generally elevated and give efficient discrimination at the euthyroid/toxic borderline, providing an effective method for confirming hyperthyroidism and monitoring of its treatment. In hypothyroidism, FT3 concentrations tend to be lower, but the decrease is insufficient to give clear diagnostic information. FT3 concentrations are independent of the concentration of thyroid hormone-binding proteins, and may be measured in patients with elevated or reduced binding protein concentrations without the need for additional tests of binding capacity. FT3 determinations should be used as part of a thyroid test strategy, which may include free T4 and high sensitivity TSH assays.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:
2ml serum collected in a red top tube with no additive or in a serum separator tube (gel barrier). Serum should be separated from the clot as soon as possible to avoid hemolysis. Store/transport sample at room temperature (15-30°C) for no longer than 8 hours or at 2-8°C for up 48 hours. If testing is further delayed, sera should be frozen at -20°C or lower. Avoid repeat freeze-thaw cycles.

METHOD:
Enhanced Chemiluminescence.

REFERENCES:

Normal Range: 2.5–3.9 pg/ml

Turnaround Time: 3 days