

Memo No. 2020-022
Date: 19-Mar-2020
Memo To: Clients
Re: *Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin – 2 New Test Listings*

Transferrin is an iron-transport protein with variable amounts of linked sialic acid, an oligosaccharide. The most common isoform of transferrin contains four sialic acid residues, but isoforms with one, two, three, five or more sialic acid residues are also present. Circulating transferrin with reduced overall amounts of sialic acid is measured as Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (CDT).

ICL offers two different CDT tests; test selection should be guided by the intended use.

Please ensure that your order for CDT specifies which of these two available tests is required.

Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation (CDG)

Various clinically significant congenital disorders of glycosylation can be diagnosed by analyzing transferrin isoforms. The relative abundance of the various isoforms is interpreted on the test report.

- [Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin \(CDT\) for Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation \(CDG\), Serum](#)

Marker of Alcohol Consumption

Ethanol consumption leads to a detection of increased relative amounts of transferrin with no sialic acid residues or a single residue (i.e. CDT). This measurement of CDT can be used as a marker of alcohol consumption and abuse. The reduced glycosylation is likely caused by an inhibition of enzymes required for the normal metabolism of transferrin.

- [Carbohydrate-deficient Transferrin \(CDT\) \(Alcohol Use\), Serum](#)
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If you have further questions, please contact Client Care at (416) 422-3000 Ext. 300 or info@ICLabs.ca

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