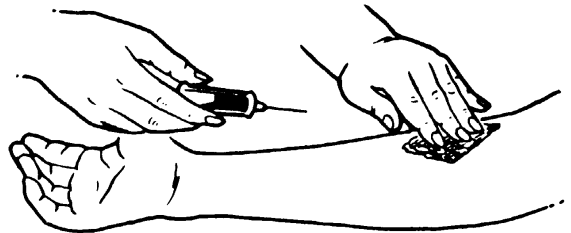


Blood Tests After Your Lung Transplant

The first three (3) months after your transplant are very important. During this time the chance of having a rejection episode is high. To make sure that a rejection episode is caught as early as possible, you must have your blood drawn two (2) times a week for at least three (3) months. You should always get your blood drawn on **Monday and Thursday**.



Your Responsibilities:

- Find a laboratory near your home that can draw your blood and give you the results the same day. Many people go to a hospital laboratory close to their home. If the laboratory staff have any questions, they can call the Lung Transplant Office. Tell the Lung Transplant Office the phone number of your lab. If you are able to have your blood drawn at OSU lab or Lab Corp, these laboratories directly enter your results for immediate access.



- When you are ready to go home, your nurse will give you routine bloodwork orders. Take the orders to your local laboratory. The

More on next page →

Learn more about your health care.

letter tells the laboratory what blood tests to do and to give you the blood test results before 3:00 PM. When you get your blood test results, write them in your notebook. Call your blood test results to the Transplant Office before 3:00 PM. **Do not let anyone else call your results in for you.** If you cannot call the results, and need someone else call, be close to the phone so that you can answer questions.

- Tacrolimus (Prograf or FK506) levels must be drawn prior to taking the morning dose. Lab values are checked on Monday and Thursday until instructed otherwise.
- Neoral (CSA) levels are drawn each Monday (once a week). Monday morning's Neoral blood level should be drawn 12 hours after Sunday evening's dose. For example, Neoral taken at 8 PM Sunday evening will have blood drawn at 8 AM Monday morning.
- The Post - Transplant Office needs your blood test results on the **SAME DAY** you have your blood drawn. Go to your laboratory early in the morning so they have time to do the tests and get the results to you. Even if your results are faxed from the lab to the Post Transplant office, you must call the lab and get your bloodwork results for your own records.

Blood Tests:

Listed below are the blood tests you will have drawn. Those tests checked (✓) will be the ones you will need to have drawn. The abbreviations used and the importance of tests are also explained.

Creatinine (Cr)

The creatinine shows how your kidneys are working. Creatinine is a substance made by your muscles at a steady rate. It is taken out of the body only by your kidney. When the creatinine goes up, it means the kidneys are not working as well.

Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)

The BUN is another way to tell how the kidneys are working. Urea nitrogen is a waste product from protein in the food you eat. Most

of the urea nitrogen is taken out of the body by your kidneys. If the BUN goes up, it means the kidneys are not working as well.

Sodium (Na)

Potassium (K)

Chloride (Cl)

These tests measure electrolytes, substances needed for the body to function. The kidney keeps or takes these substances out of the body according to your body's needs. They are checked to be sure you have a normal amount. Too much or too little can cause problems.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

The amount of carbon dioxide shows how well acids and bases are balanced in your body. It is checked to be sure you do not have too much or too little.

Hemoglobin (Hgb)

Hemoglobin is part of your red blood cells. If your hemoglobin is low, the condition is called anemia. Anemia may need treatment if your hemoglobin is very low.

White Blood Cell Count (WBC)

White blood cells help fight infections. A low number of white blood cells means you are at more risk for infection. A high number of white blood cells means you may have an infection. If you take Azathioprine (Imuran), a side effect is a low number of white blood cells. The dose of Imuran may be changed because of a low white blood cell count.

Glucose (Gluc)

Glucose is blood sugar. It is checked to be sure your body is using sugar correctly. If you have diabetes, the glucose level will go up because of your Prednisone. In people without diabetes, the glucose level may go up as a side effect of Prednisone.

Other Blood Tests:

Other blood tests may also be done. These tests may be done once a week or once a month. The laboratory will also tell you these results. Write them down in your notebook and report the results when you call the Transplant Office.

Calcium (Ca)

Phosphorus (Phos)

Calcium and phosphorus are minerals that are needed for healthy bones. Too much or too little can cause bone problems.

Alkaline Phosphatase (ALK)

Total Bilirubin (T Bili)

These tests tell how well your liver is working. They are checked to be sure your liver continues to work normally.

Uric Acid (UA)

Uric Acid is a waste product that leaves your body through your kidney. It is checked to be sure your kidney is flushing it out. Too much uric acid can cause joint pain.

Amylase (AMY)

Amylase is a substance made by your pancreas. It is checked to be sure your pancreas is working normally. Too much amylase could mean a problem with the pancreas.

SGOT

SGOT is a substance in the liver. Like some of the other tests, it is checked to be sure your liver is working normally.

- **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**