

<b>d-Aminolevulinic acid (urine)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	d-Aminolevulinic acid (ALA) is the first compound in the porphyrin synthesis pathway, the pathway that leads to haem in mammals. It is produced from succinyl-CoA and glycine by ALA synthase.
<b>Indication</b>	Investigation of suspected acute porphyria and acute abdomen of unknown cause.
<b>Additional Info</b>	<p><b>Protect urine sample from light and send to the laboratory immediately.</b></p> <p><b>If this is an emergency request (i.e. suspect an acute porphyria) then contact the laboratory.</b></p> <p>This sample is sent to an external laboratory for analysis.</p>
<b>Concurrent Tests</b>	Further tests of urine, faeces and blood will be necessary to obtain a specific diagnosis.
<b>Dietary Requirements</b>	N/A
<b>Interpretation</b>	<p>ALA is raised in all acute porphyria's (Acute intermittent porphyria, hereditary coproporphyria, variegate porphyria and aminolevulinic dehydratase deficiency porphyria ).</p> <p>ALA can be raised in patients with lead poisoning.</p> <p>For further interpretation contact the laboratory.</p>
<b>Collection Conditions</b>	Collect random urine. Protect from light.
<b>Frequency of testing</b>	As required.