

Beta 2 Transferrin (fluid)

Description	Assay for detection of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) rhinorrhoea (nasal fluid) and otorrhoea (fluid discharged from ear). Also known as tau transferrin, rhinorrhoea fluid analysis or asialotransferrin.
Indication	To distinguish cerebrospinal fluid from other watery discharge from the nose or ear following trauma (e.g. skull fracture), intracranial surgery, infection or neoplasia.
Additional Info	<p>Tau transferrin or asialotransferrin is a desialylated form of transferrin which is present in CSF but absent in serum. Transferrin found in serum is predominantly tetra-sialated. Hence the detection of asialotransferrin in nasal or ear fluid indicates that the fluid originated from the central nervous system. Asialotransferrin accumulates in CSF because the asialoglycoprotein receptor (which removes desialylated transferrin from blood) is not expressed in the central nervous system.</p> <p>Asialotransferrin is highly specific to CSF as it is not present to any great extent in plasma, nasal secretions, tears, saliva or other potentially confounding fluids. CSF is distinguished from other watery discharges of the nose or ear by the characteristic presence of a β_2-transferrin band which can be detected by immunofixation or immunoblotting following electrophoresis.</p>
Concurrent Tests	Paired serum sample required with nasal or ear fluid.
Dietary Requirements	N/A.
Interpretation	Results are reported as positive or negative.
Collection Conditions	Send by 1st class post or by taxi if urgent.
Frequency of testing	As required.