

Mercury (whole blood)	
Description	Mercury (whole blood)
Indication	Acute or chronic poisoning.
Additional Info	<p>Whole blood is the preferred specimen for determining organic mercury intoxication (e.g. methyl mercury from consuming contaminated seafood). Urine mercury is the preferred specimen for determining mercury vapour exposure and inorganic mercury exposure.</p> <p>Acute poisoning can occur due to occupational exposure or inadvertent consumption. Chronic poisoning can occur by exposure to fungicides or prolonged use of dermatological ointments.</p> <p>Acute symptoms may include burning in the mouth and respiratory symptoms, decreased urine output, increased heart rate and GI disturbances. Chronic symptoms include disturbances of the CNS, kidneys and lungs.</p>
Concurrent Tests	N/A
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	Non-toxic reference range <25 nmol/L
Collection Conditions	Whole blood (KEDTA – Sarstedt pink/red top tube).
Frequency of testing	As required.