

Protoporphyrin (red blood cell)

Description	Protoporphyrin is a metabolite synthesised in the haem biosynthetic pathway. It is produced from protoporphyrinogen IX by protoporphyrinogen oxidase activity.
Indication	Investigation of suspected porphyria.
Additional Info	<p>Protect whole blood sample from light and send to the laboratory immediately.</p> <p>If this is an emergency request (i.e. suspect an acute porphyria) then contact the laboratory.</p> <p>This sample is sent to an external laboratory for analysis.</p>
Concurrent Tests	Further tests of urine, faeces and blood will be necessary to obtain a specific diagnosis.
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	<p>Protoporphyrin (zinc and free) are elevated in congenital erythropoietic porphyria</p> <p>Protoporphyrin (free) is elevated in erythropoietic protoporphyria</p> <p>Protoporphyrin (zinc) is elevated in ALA dehydratase deficiency (rare, no cases reported in the UK to date).</p> <p>For further interpretation contact the laboratory.</p>
Collection Conditions	Protect from light.
Frequency of testing	As required.