

FT3

Triiodothyronine (T3) is one of the hormones produced by the thyroid gland. Only small amount of T3 is free (free triiodothyronine or FT3), the rest is attached to a protein. T3 helps regulate the metabolism.

Why the FT3 Test is Performed?

The FT3 test is ordered if a patient has abnormal TSH, T4 or FT4 results and it is used to help diagnose hyperthyroidism.

How the Test is Performed and How to Prepare for the Test?

A blood sample is taken from a vein. No special preparation is needed.

What Abnormal Results Mean

Higher-than-normal FT3 levels may be caused by hyperthyroidism. Lower-than-normal FT3 levels may be caused by hypothyroidism.

Alternative Names

No alternative names.

Useful Information

Some medications (e.g. oral contraceptives) may interfere with the test results.