

FT4

Thyroxine (T4) is one of the hormones produced by the thyroid gland. It helps regulate the metabolism.

Most T4 is attached to a protein; only small amount is unattached and it is called free thyroxine or FT4.

Why the FT4 Test is Performed?

Mainly, FT4 test is ordered when the patient has symptoms of hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism. It is also ordered when TSH test results are abnormal.

FT4 test may be performed in patients with goitrous thyroid gland as well.

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 FT4 levels may be caused by hyperthyroidism. Lower-than-normal FT4 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. In general, FT4 is less affected by other factors than total T4.