

Name of the test:

Serum Iron

Alternative name(s) of the test:

None

What this test is used for:

This test measures the amount of iron in the blood. Iron is an essential element for a human body. Serum iron test is used to detect either iron deficiency or excessive levels of iron in the blood. Both of these conditions may lead to serious disorders.

When the test is ordered:

Serum iron test is ordered, when the patient is suspected to have either too low or too high amounts of iron in the body.

It is often performed in patients, who have signs of anemia.

Serum iron test may be ordered with other tests - ferritin test, transferrin test and TIBC (total iron-binding capacity).

How this test is performed:

A blood sample is taken from a vein.

How to prepare for the test:

Usually, fasting is required several hours prior to the test. Some medications might also affect the results, so it is important to consult the doctor first.

Interpretation of results:

Measuring iron levels alone, aren't usually enough to diagnose anemia or other disorders related to abnormal levels of iron. Some additional tests - ferritin test, transferrin test and TIBC – might be necessary to perform.