

**Name of the test:**

Creatinine test

**Alternative name(s) of the test:**

None.

**What this test is used for:**

This test measures creatinine levels in the blood or urine. Creatinine is a breakdown product of creatine which is produced in muscles. The larger a person's muscle mass, the larger amounts of creatinine will be produced. Creatinine is excreted by kidneys, so when its concentration increases, a kidney disorder is suspected.

**When the test is ordered:**

The creatinine test is ordered to check if the kidneys are functioning normally. It is performed when a patient is suspected to have a kidney disorder, or when he/she has a diagnosed kidney disease. In order to assess kidney function, often other tests are performed as well.

**How this test is performed:**

A blood sample is taken from a vein or a 24-hour urine sample is collected.

**How to prepare for the test:**

Fasting may be required. Some drugs can affect the test results, so it is important to consult with your doctor for detailed information about the preparation needed.

**Interpretation of results:**

High creatinine levels usually indicate that kidneys are not functioning properly. It may be caused by a kidney disorder or some other condition. The test results should be interpreted by a doctor.