

**Name of the test:**

Albumin test

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

None.

**What this test is used for:**

This test measures the level of albumin in the blood. Albumin is a protein produced by the liver. It makes up about 60% of total protein and plays many important roles in the body: transports different hormones, pharmaceuticals, vitamins and regulates the colloidal osmotic pressure of plasma. Malnutrition or malabsorption, liver or kidney diseases are associated with decreased albumin levels in the blood.

**When the test is ordered:**

The albumin test is very often ordered. Low albumin levels can be caused by many different disorders, so this test helps evaluate overall health of a person, as well as diagnose liver or kidney diseases.

**How this test is performed:**

A blood sample is taken from a vein.

**How to prepare for the test:**

No preparation is needed, however some drugs may affect the test results, so consult your doctor first.

**Interpretation of results:**

Low level of albumin in the blood may be a sign of a liver or kidney disease. Albumin is produced in the liver and then excreted by the kidneys. So if the liver doesn't produce enough albumin or if the kidneys excrete it in high amounts, then albumin levels decrease in the blood.

However, low albumin level may not always be a sign of a liver or kidney disorder and it might be caused by some other conditions.

Other tests are often ordered as well, in order to determine the exact cause of abnormal results.