

C-reactive protein (CRP)

C-reactive protein is produced by the liver. The level of CRP rises when there is inflammation throughout the body. After it is released, CRP activates complement which enhances phagocytosis by macrophages.

Why the CRP Test is Performed?

The CRP test is a general test to check for inflammation in the body. It is not a specific test. This means, that it can reveal that you have inflammation somewhere in your body, but it cannot pinpoint the exact location.

CRP can also be used to check for flare-ups of systemic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or vasculitis and to determine if anti-inflammatory medicine is effective for treating a disease or some condition.

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

For the test a blood sample is needed without any special preparation.

What Abnormal Results Mean?

A positive test means you have inflammation in the body. This may be due to a variety of different conditions, including:

- Infection
- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Rheumatic fever
- Heart attack

Alternative Names

No alternative names

Useful Information

Positive CRP results also occur during the last half of pregnancy or with the use of birth control pills (oral contraceptives).