

Name of the test

Anti-Tg

Alternative name(s) of the test

Thyroglobulin antibody, Antithyroglobulin antibody.

What is this test used for?

Anti-Tg or antithyroglobulin antibody is an antibody to thyroglobulin.

Thyroglobulin is a protein produced by the thyroid gland. It is a precursor of thyroid hormones – T3 and T4.

Normally, anti-Tg is not present in the blood. Nevertheless, about 10% of healthy people have detectable levels of anti-Tg.

When is the test ordered?

The test helps diagnose various thyroid diseases and it is often ordered with anti-TPO test.

It should be also noted that, when anti-Tg is present in blood, it can bind to thyroglobulin. This interferes with the accuracy of the thyroglobulin tests and makes it unreliable. For this reason, when thyroglobulin test is performed, it is important to measure anti-Tg levels as well.

How the test is performed?

A blood sample is drawn from a vein.

How to prepare for the test

No special preparation is required, however some medications may affect the test results, so it is important to first consult with the doctor and get all the necessary instructions about any preparation needed.

Interpretation of results

The test results should be interpreted by a doctor.

In general, high levels of anti-Tg may be indicating presence of an autoimmune disease affecting the thyroid gland, or sometimes presence of a thyroid tumor.