

WHO WE ARE

For over 23 years, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories, a leading clinical diagnostic laboratory, has served the local medical community and patients throughout southwest Ohio.

CompuNet is based in Dayton, Ohio with facilities that include a large reference laboratory in Moraine, laboratories within the Miami Valley Hospital system, and a satellite location in Troy. In addition, our numerous neighborhood patient service centers offer patients the convenience of having lab work performed close to home.

To bring the latest medical advances to our community, CompuNet partners with Quest Diagnostics, the nation's largest clinical diagnostic laboratory. CompuNet's local ownership and management, combined with our Quest connection, allow us to offer our patients the most advanced testing available today while at the same time providing fast turnaround on test results.

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CompuNet Clinical Laboratories

FOR YOUR HEALTH



PSA PROSTATE-SPECIFIC ANTIGEN BLOOD TEST

As a service to patients, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories provides the information you need to understand your laboratory tests.



PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen)

PSA, also known as Prostate-Specific Antigen, is a protein made by the cells of the prostate. The routine PSA test measures the amount of prostate-specific antigen in the blood. Rising or changing levels of PSA in the blood may be a sign of a prostate problem, perhaps as serious as cancer.

According to the American Urological Association, prostate cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. Yet, when detected in its early stages, prostate cancer can be effectively treated and cured. The American Cancer Society suggests that doctors offer the PSA blood test and digital rectal exam (DRE) yearly, beginning at age 50, to men who do not have any major medical problems and can be expected to live at least 10 more years. Men at high risk should begin testing at age 45. Men at high risk include African Americans and men who have a close relative (father, brother, or son) who had prostate cancer before age 65.

For the most accurate results, a PSA blood test should be combined with a physical exam by your doctor. During your exam, your physician will perform a DRE where a gloved finger is used to feel the prostate gland through the wall of the rectum.

It is important to note that rising PSA levels increase with age even in cancer-free men, and an elevated PSA level does not necessarily indicate cancer.

Information Sources:
American Urological Foundation
American Cancer Society

How to prepare for your test

Most routine laboratory tests require a blood sample, drawn from a vein in the arm. Your blood sample may be collected at your physician's office or at a CompuNet Patient Service Center. In some cases, CompuNet may offer testing at an outside location, such as a health fair.

The PSA blood test is a simple, routine test, and no special preparation is needed before having your blood drawn.

About Your PSA Results

Your PSA blood test results will be within one of the following PSA level (ng/ml) ranges:

0 - 4.0 = Normal

Greater than 4.0 = Abnormal

The results from both the DRE and PSA blood test, along with your age, are considered when estimating the level of risk for prostate cancer. It is important to know, however, that only a biopsy can diagnose prostate cancer.

Recommendation

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories recommends that you follow up with your physician so that he/she can review your test results with you. The PSA blood test is a routine screen and should not be used alone to diagnose a condition.

For more information about:
Prostate Cancer or PSA Blood tests visit:
American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org)
American Urological Assn. (www.urologyhealth.org)