



#### **RED CELL OR WHOLE BLOOD METALS - Test Code 5026**



Turnaround Time: 7 business days



Specimen Type: 1x K2 EDTA Blood (navy)

## Description

The Red Cell or Whole Blood Metals Test measures the levels of metals in the body. Toxic metals, like lead, mercury and cadmium, can accumulate over time and cause damage to organs such as the kidneys, liver and nervous system (Yang & Wang, 2022).

This test can be performed on either whole blood or red blood cells, each providing different insights. Whole blood testing reflects the metals circulating in the bloodstream, offering a snapshot of recent exposure or the body's current metal burden. In contrast, red blood cell testing provides a longer-term view of metal accumulation, as metals tend to be stored within cells, including red blood cells, over time (Ji et al., 2024). As a result, red blood cell testing is often more useful in identifying chronic exposure and understanding long-term metal toxicity.

By assessing the levels of metals in the blood or red blood cells, healthcare providers can better understand an individual's exposure history, guide treatment for metal toxicity and support overall health and wellness.

### **Test Options**

 15 toxic metals: Al, Sb, As, Be, Bi, Cd, Hg, Ni, Pb, Pt, Ag, Tl, Sn, U, Zr [specify red cell OR whole blood]

# **Conditions and Symptoms**

- Poor wound healing
- Tinnitus and hearing loss
- Respiratory issues
- Persistent headaches
- Chronic Fatigue
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Anxiety and depression

### **Complementary Testing**

- Comprehensive Metabolic Profile (Test code 1023)
- Organic Acid Metabolomic Mapping (Test code 4041)

#### **Accreditations Include:**

- NATA ISO 15189 Requirements for Quality and Competence in Medical Laboratories\*
- CLIA Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments\*









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