

Intended Use

For the quantitative determination of iron in serum using the Mindray BS-200 analyzer. For *in vitro* diagnostic use only.

Method History

Iron exists in serum complexed with transferrin, a transport protein. Most early procedures for iron determination involved dissociation of the iron from the iron-protein complex, precipitation of the proteins, and then measurement of the iron content of the protein free filtrate.

Many chromagens have been used in the determination including thiocyanate o-phenanthroline, bathophenanthroline and TPTZ. In 1971, Persijn et al.¹ presented a method using the chromagen ferrozine, described by Stookey.² This method did not require protein precipitation and was more sensitive than previous methods. The present procedure is a modification of the Persijn method.

Principle

Serum Iron: Transferrin-bound iron is released at an acid pH and reduced from ferric to ferrous ions. These ions react with ferrozine to form a violet colored complex which is measured spectrophotometrically at 560nm. The absorbance measured at this wavelength is proportional to serum iron concentration.

Clinical Significance³

In most cases, both serum iron and TIBC values are necessary for greatest diagnostic significance. Low serum iron values are seen in chronic blood loss, insufficient intake or absorption of iron, and increased demand on the body stores (e.g. pregnancy). Elevated serum iron values are seen in increased red cell destruction, decreased red cell synthesis, increased iron intake, or increased iron stores release.

Increase in the TIBC may be due to increased production of apotransferrin (e.g. chronic iron deficiency) or an increased release of ferritin, as in hepatocellular necrosis.

Decreases in the TIBC can occur with cirrhosis and hemochromatosis due to a deficiency in ferritin, or in nephrosis due to loss of apotransferrin.

Reagents

1. Iron Buffer (R1) Reagent: Hydroxylamine hydrochloride 220mM in acetate buffer, pH 4.5 with surfactant.
2. Iron Color (R2) Reagent: Ferrozine 3.6mM in hydroxylamine hydrochloride.

Precautions

1. All reagents are toxic. Do not pipette by mouth. Avoid all contact.
2. This reagent is for *in vitro* diagnostic use only.

Reagent Storage

Store all reagents refrigerated at 2-8°C. The reagents are stable until the expiration date appearing on the label when stored as directed.

Reagent Deterioration

All reagents should be clear. Turbidity may indicate contamination and the reagent should not be used.

Specimen Collection and Storage

1. Fresh, unhemolyzed serum is the specimen of choice.
2. Serum should be separated as soon as clot has formed.

3. Heparinized plasma may be used but other anticoagulants should not be used to avoid possible iron contamination.⁴
4. Serum iron is reported to be stable for four days at room temperature (15-30°C) and seven days at 2-8°C.⁴

Interferences

1. Certain drugs and other substances are known to influence circulating iron levels. See Young, et al.⁵
2. Iron contained in hemoglobin does not react in this method, therefore, slight hemolysis will not interfere. However, gross hemolysis (pink or red specimens) will contribute to the absorbance measured at the wavelength used and should be avoided.³
3. To make tubes, pipettes, etc. iron free, they must be washed with hot, dilute (1:2) hydrochloric or nitric acid, followed by several rinsings with iron-free deionized or distilled water.

Materials Provided

1. Iron Buffer R1 Reagent
2. Iron Color R2 Reagent

Materials Required but not Provided

1. Mindray BS-200 Analyzer
2. BS-200 Operation manual
3. Chemistry Calibrator, catalog number C7506-50
4. Chemistry control, catalog number C7592-100

BS-200 Test Parameters

Test:	IRON	R1:	200
No.:	020	R2:	40
Full Name:	Total Iron	Sample Volume:	12
Standard No.:		R1 Blank:	
Reaction Type:	End-point	Mixed Rgt. Blank:	
Pri. Wave:	546nm	Linearity Range:	0 - 500
Sec. Wave:	670nm	Linearity Limit:	
Direction:	Increase	Substrate Limit:	
Reac. Time:	0 / 18	Factor:	
		Compensate: Slope 1.0	Intercept: 0
Incuba. Time:	3	<input type="checkbox"/> Prozone check	
Unit:	ug/dl	q1: q2: q3: q4:	
Precision:	Integer	PC: Abs:	

Calibration Parameters

Rule:	Two-point linear	Calibrator 1:	Deionized Water
Sensitivity:		Calibrator 2:	Chem Cal
Replicates:	2	Calibrator 3:	
Interval (day):		Calibrator 4:	
Difference Limit:		Calibrator 5:	
SD:		Calibrator 6:	
Blank Response:			
Error Limit:			
Coefficient:	0		

Total Iron Reagent Set

Calculations

A = Absorbance
Std = Standard

$$\frac{A_2 \text{ Test} - A_1 \text{ Test}}{A_2 \text{ Std} - A_1 \text{ Std}} \times \text{Conc. of Std} = \text{Total Iron (ug/dl)}$$

Example: $A_1 \text{ Test} = 0.08$ $A_2 \text{ Test} = 0.15$
 $A_1 \text{ Std} = 0.00$ $A_2 \text{ Std} = 0.40$

$$\text{Then: } \frac{0.15 - 0.08}{0.40 - 0.00} = \frac{0.07}{0.40} \times 500 = 0.175 \times 500 = 87.5 \text{ ug/dl}$$

Calibration

Use an NIST-traceable serum calibrator. The procedure should be calibrated according to the instrument manufacturer's instructions. If control results are found to be out of range, the procedure should be re-calibrated.

Quality Control

Serum controls with known normal and abnormal values should be run routinely to monitor the validity of the reaction. Quality control requirements should be performed in conformance with local, state, and/or Federal regulations or accreditation requirements.

Expected Values

Iron, Total = 60 – 150 ug/dl

It is strongly recommended that each laboratory determine the normal range for its particular population.

References


1. Persijn, J.P., et al, Clin. Acta 35:91, (1971).
2. Stookey, L.L., Anal. Chem. 42:779, (1970).
3. Tietz, N.W., Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, pp. 923-929, (1976).
4. Weissman, N., Pileggi, V.J., in Clinical Chemistry: Principles and Technics, 2nd Ed., R.J. Henry et al, editors, Hagerstown (MD), Harper & Row, pp. 692-693, (1974).
5. Young, D.S. et al, Clin. Chem. 21:1D, (1975).
6. Henry, J.B., Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods, Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, p. 1434, (1984).
7. NCCLS document "Evaluation of Precision Performance of Clinical Chemistry Devices", 2nd Ed. (1992).


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Performance


1. Linearity: 500 ug/dl
Samples with values above 500 ug/dl must be diluted 1:1 with normal saline, re-assayed and result multiplied by two.
2. Comparison: A study was performed between the Mindray BS-200 and a similar analyzer using this method, resulting in a correlation coefficient of .994 with a regression equation of $y = 1.072x - 3.1$.
3. Precision: Precision studies were performed using the Mindray BS-200 analyzer following a modification of the guidelines which are contained in NCCLS document EP5-T2.⁷

Within Run			Day to Day		
Mean	S.D.	C.V.%	Mean	S.D.	C.V.%
81.5	3.6	4.4	78.6	2.1	2.7
289.4	6.2	2.1	280.7	5.6	2.0

 Use by (YYYY-MM)

 Temperature limitation

 Lot and batch code

 Consult instructions for use

 Catalog number

 CE mark

 Manufacturer

 Authorized representative in the European Community

 In vitro diagnostic medical device