signs of bleeding disorders.
Several test systems are available to measure WF concentration and function. MEDLAB offers you state of the art, step-by-step diagnostic tools to identify and classify the type of Willebrand Disease in your patient.

**Sampling:** 2 mL of citrate plasma

**Reference Interval:**
- WF antigen: 50 - 160 %
- WF activity: 60 - 170 %
- WF activity (blood group 0): 46 - 150 %

### Xylose Absorption Test, Serum

**Related Information:** Endomysial Antibodies
Gliadin IgG/IgA Antibodies

**Synonyms:** D-Xylose Absorption Test, Serum,

**Background:** D-xylose is absorbed in the duodenum and jejunum and excreted by the kidney. The test screens for carbohydrate malabsorption and differentiates from pancreatic insufficiency, since pancreatic enzymes are not necessary for xylose absorption. Diseases such as celiac disease, tropical sprue, M. Crohn, surgical bowel resection impair xylose resorption.

**Sampling:** Patient should be fasting at least for 4 h and remain in a supine position during the test. Patient should be withdrawn from interfering medications (aspirin, indomethacin, neomycin, glipizide, atropine). Draw first sample (1 mL serum) before administer 25 g xylose orally in water, 10% w/v in adults. In children use 0.5 g/kg body weight. Draw second (1 mL serum) sample after 60 minutes.

**Reference Interval:**
- Adult, 1 h, 25 g of xylose: > 25 mg/dL
- Adult, 1 h, 25 g of xylose, renal insufficiency: > 20 mg/dL
- Adult, 1 h, 5 g dose of xylose: 20 - 40 mg/dL
- Children < 12 years, 1 h, 5g dose: > 20 mg/dL

### Yersinia enterocolitica and Yersinia pseudotuberculosis, Culture and Serology

**Background:** Yersinia enterocolitica and Yersinia pseudotuberculosis are gram negative oval rods. Transmission occur by contamination of food (milk, water, meat) with excreta from the reservoir animals such as pigs, goats, sheep, dogs, cats. Y. enterocolitica causes enterocolitis that is clinically indistinguishable from that caused by Salmonella or Shigella. It is characterized by abdominal pain, gastroenteritis and possibly bloody diarrhea. Both Yersinia sp. can cause an acute appendicitis resembling mesenteric adenitis. Yersinia infection may be associated with reactive arthritis and Reiter’s syndrome, but Salmonella spp., Shigella spp. and Campylobacter spp. may also trigger these autoimmune diseases.

**Limitations:** Low antibody titers of IgG class may persist for years.
**Sampling:** Culture: 2 g of fresh stool; Serology: 1 mL serum, acute and convalescent serum recommended (at least 1 week apart)

**Reference Interval:**
- Culture: Report of diagnostic finding
- Serology: Differentiation of immunoglobulin classes
- *Y. enterocolitica* and *Y. pseudotuberculosis*
  - IgA antibody negative: < 0.8 COI
  - Borderline: 0.8 - 1.1 COI
  - Positive: > 1.1 COI
- IgG antibody negative: < 16 RE/ml
  - Borderline: 16 - 22 RE/ml
  - Positive: > 22 RE/ml
- Validation by immunoblot

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**Zinc (Zn), Serum or Urine or Seminal Fluid**

**Related Information:** Albumin, Serum  
Copper (Cu), Serum or Urine

**Background:** Zn is an essential trace element with effects on weight, immune function, growth and development. It is a functional compound of more than 300 enzymes. Zinc is mainly eliminated in the feces, minor quantities in the urine. Serum zinc represents approx 1% of total body zinc stores. Serum zinc is poorly correlated with the status of the zinc stores. In mild zinc deficiency status, serum zinc may be normal. High urine but low serum levels are found in cirrhosis, neoplastic diseases, increased catabolism and in states of urinary loss of zinc such as viral hepatitis, hemolytic anemias, sickle cell diseases, alcoholism, renal diseases. Serum levels are lowered in fever, sepsis, inflammation, corticosteroid therapy, oral contraceptives, pregnancy, and myocardial infarction. Since albumin is the major binding protein for zinc, hypoalbuminemia presents with low serum zinc levels. Copper and zinc are competitive in intestinal resorption, dietary zinc supplement may decrease cooper levels. Also folic acid and iron may compete with zinc absorption. Drugs decreasing zinc levels are phenytoin, prednisone, valproic acid.

Zinc deficiencies may occur in breast fed infants whose mother’s milk is low of zinc, premature infants with low hepatic stores, in growing children, in prepubertal boys with delayed sexual maturity, in malabsorption disorders and diarrhea, in diabetes, nephrotic syndrome, cirrhosis, in AIDS patients, burn patients, in patients receiving high intravenous supplement of amino acids, in pregnant women due to the high uptake by the fetus.

Acrodermatitis enteropathica is characterized by zinc malabsorption which develops in babies presenting with facial and diaper rash when weaned, progressing to growth retardation, diarrhea, impaired T cell function, infections, delayed testicular development. Usually serum and urine zinc concentrations are low, but serum zinc may be normal in some cases.

**Sampling:** Serum: 1 mL serum. Blood to collect in a metal free container, avoid powdered gloves, avoid probe to contact rubber. Avoid hemolysis or stasis, since red cells contain zinc