

Folate, Red Cell Obsolete



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Effective immediately, 11/20/13, Folate, RBC, Mayo FFRBC, referred to ARUP Laboratories, is obsolete due to continuing reagent issues with the manufacturer. ARUP will continue to hold all samples received to date and report them when testing resumes. Mayo is no longer accepting samples for referral to ARUP.

Recommended Alternate Test: Folate, serum or plasma performed at St. Luke's.

True folate deficiency in the current era of FDA-mandated folic acid supplementation is exceedingly rare. There is no evidence to support routine ordering of RBC or serum folate, but serum folate concentrations provide equivalent clinical information to RBC folate in the assessment and diagnosis of folate deficiency. Based on these statistics, and because serum folate provides equivocal results to RBC folate in almost all clinical scenarios, routine ordering of RBC folate is no longer warranted. Furthermore, investigation of megaloblastic anemia should preferentially be initiated with vitamin B12 testing instead of folate due to the low incidence of modern folate deficiency. In the absence of B12 deficiency, it is more cost effective to simply supplement with folic acid rather than routinely test and monitor a patient's folate status, similar to other nutritional deficiencies such as vitamin D.

Below is the link to this Mayo hot topic:

<http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/articles/hottopics/transcripts/2010/2010-11a-rbc/11a-13.html>

Questions:

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Client Services, (218) 249-5200 or Dr. Kristin Baer, MD Chemistry Medical Director (218)249-5208.