

# New Test Announcement



## **B-OH Butyrate, Ketoacidosis, WB**

**Effective February 18, 2013, St. Luke's Laboratory will provide "in house" testing for B-hydroxybutyrate. We are very pleased to bring this testing in house thus providing much improved turnaround times.**

Beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB) is 1 of 3 sources of ketone bodies. Its relative proportion in the blood (78%) is greater than the other 2 ketone bodies, acetoacetate (20%) and acetone (2%). During carbohydrate deprivation (starvation, digestive disturbances, frequent vomiting), decreased carbohydrate utilization (diabetes mellitus), glycogen storage diseases, and alkalosis, acetoacetate production increases. The increase may exceed the metabolic capacity of the peripheral tissues. As acetoacetate accumulates in the blood, a small amount is converted to acetone by spontaneous decarboxylation. The remaining and greater portion of acetoacetate is converted to BHB. B-hydroxybutyrate testing is intended to be used in conjunction with other laboratory findings and clinical assessments to assist in the diagnosis of diabetic ketoacidosis in adults and children.

This test is indicated for use in the management of patients with diabetes.

Orderable test: B-OH Butyrate, Ketoacidosis, WB

Testing will be offered STAT, 7 days a week.

**Reference Range: 0.0-0.3 mmol/L**

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Kristin Baer, Chemistry Medical Director at 249-5751 or Kathren Kloss, Clinical Laboratory Services Technical Coordinator, at 249-5339.

**St. Luke's Laboratory Services web:** <http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>