

Lab Test Announcement



Total Bilirubin Mild Elevation

It has come to our attention that the St. Luke's Laboratory's chemistry analyzers periodically report out a mildly elevated total bilirubin when this test is performed as part of a panel. Upon retesting the total bilirubin assay on suspicious samples, the results were within normal range when performed as a single assay.

This issue is not isolated to St. Luke's. We investigated these events with the vendor's technical support team following all necessary troubleshooting practices and also replaced hardware on the analyzers.

Going forward, we have implemented the use of a delta check to catch potential errors. If a patient has a previous total bilirubin history and is retested within 24 hours, the chemistry department will get notified to investigate samples that have a positive or negative change of more than 0.5 mg/dL of the previous result.

We do not have the ability to screen elevated total bilirubin results on patients without history or have not had a previous bilirubin within 24 hours. If you are suspicious of a total bilirubin result that does not match the clinical presentation, please notify the laboratory and we will recheck the result.

We are in process of validating new analyzers for use by the end of October.

If you have questions, please contact Kristin Baer, M.D. Chemistry Medical Director (218)-249-5208, Sabrina Fuchs, MBA, MLS (ASCP)^{cm}, Laboratory Operations Manager (218)-249-5339, or Megan Johnson, MLS(ASCP), Chemistry Technical Specialist (218)-249-5207.

See St. Luke's Laboratory Services Web page containing New Test Announcements:

<http://www.slhduluth.com/hospital/laboratory-services/>