



An Affiliate of Methodist Health Systems

THE PATHOLOGY CENTER

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Bulletin

Technical

CA 19-9

The Pathology Center has recently acquired the ability to perform CA 19-9 and will begin performing this assay on **March 14, 2006**

Serum CA 19-9 is a mucin (high molecular mass glycoprotein) which is useful for monitoring of hepatobiliary, gastric, hepatocellular, and especially colon and pancreatic carcinoma. CA 19-9 cannot be produced by the approximately 5% of people who are Lewis a-b (antigen expressed on red blood cells) negative.

The new assay yields results roughly equivalent to those of the previous assay for tests results in the normal range. Elevated results may differ substantially and unpredictably between the previous and new assays. The variance requires that patients being monitored with elevated CA 19-9 results on the previous assay be re-baselined by having the current specimen tested at least once by both methods to reveal differences between results.

For three months following implementation, to allow physicians and caregivers to adapt to new method results, The Pathology Center will provide both assays at no additional charge for all patients being monitored with elevated results.

The new assay reference range is <36 U/mL.

Results will be reported with the following comment: *“CA 19-9 performed by Roche Elecsys method. Results obtained with different test methods cannot be used interchangeably.”*

Please contact Dr. Tom Williams (402-354-4540) if you have questions or comments regarding this topic.