



An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

THE PATHOLOGY CENTER

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# Bulletin

## Technical

## CA 15 – 3

Effective March 25, 2003 The Pathology Center will begin performing CA 15-3. The test is currently being sent to ARUP. Correlation studies between our method (Roche Elecsys) and ARUP's method (Abbott AxSYM) show no clinically significant differences for patients within the reference range. Such "normal" results are found for the majority of specimens tested through our laboratory. However, at elevated CA 15-3 levels, some patients do show between method differences in their results, meaning different numerically elevated values, depending on which analytic method is used.

Between March 25 and June 25, at no additional charge, patients with elevated results that have been previously tested will be confirmed by the ARUP Abbott AxSYM method. The parallel measurements with both methods should allow clinicians to evaluate any serial elevated CA 15-3 results to establish a new baseline with The Pathology Center method. Significant differences between the two methods have not been identified for specimens within the respective reference ranges.

The preferred specimen is 2 ml serum collected in the yellow SST tube. Heparin or EDTA plasma is acceptable. The specimen can be refrigerated unless testing can not be completed within 48 hours. Then, send two frozen aliquots.

The reference range for The Pathology Center Roche Elecsys is 0 – 30 U/mL. The ARUP Abbott AxSYM reference range is 0 – 31 U/mL.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Dr. Thomas Williams or Dr. Stacy McManigal at 402-354-4540 or Toll-Free at 888-432-8980.