

Microsomal TPO Antibody

A microsomal thyroid peroxidase (TPO) antibody test is useful for monitoring individuals with an established history of autoimmune thyroid disease, such as Graves disease or Hashimoto thyroiditis. The test may be helpful in establishing a diagnosis of autoimmune thyroid disease, however a thyroid-stimulating hormone test, or TSH, should be considered as an initial screen for thyroid function. This test measures the antithyroid microsomal antibodies in your blood, which are produced when cells in your thyroid become damaged.

What is the function of the thyroid?

The thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland in the throat. It produces thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3) hormones which are vital in helping regulate the rate at which the body uses energy (metabolism). The body uses a feedback system in which TSH stimulates the thyroid to produce T4 and T3 as needed. This system helps maintain a relatively stable amount of the thyroid hormones in the blood. When thyroid antibodies interfere with this process, they can lead to chronic conditions and autoimmune disorders.

What should I do if the results are abnormal?

It is always recommended you meet with a healthcare provider to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you. Your healthcare provider will review all of your test results and, combined with your health history, will be able to provide an accurate course of action.

If your results were normal: Normal test results means that thyroid autoantibodies are not present in the blood at the time of testing and may indicate that symptoms are due to a cause other than autoimmune. However, a certain percentage of people who have autoimmune thyroid disease do not have autoantibodies. If it is suspected that the autoantibodies may develop over time, as may happen with some autoimmune disorders, then repeat testing may be done at a later date.

If your results were elevated: Mild to moderately elevated levels of thyroid antibodies may be found in a variety of thyroid and autoimmune disorders, such as thyroid cancer, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, pernicious anemia, and autoimmune collagen vascular diseases.

Significantly increased concentrations most frequently indicate thyroid autoimmune diseases such as Hashimoto thyroiditis and Graves disease. In general, the presence of thyroid antibodies suggests the presence of an autoimmune thyroid disorder and the higher the level, the more likely that is.

What other resources are available to learn more about my health and laboratory tests?

- Lab Tests Online: labtestsonline.org
- Healthline: healthline.com
- WebMD: webmd.com

DLO Direct offers direct access to laboratory testing for informational purposes. A DLO Direct lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as medical advice. Only a healthcare provider can interpret lab results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.

Because tests have not been ordered by a healthcare provider, third party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.



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