

T3, Free

One of the two major hormones produced by the thyroid gland is triiodothyronine (T3). This test measures T3 not bound to thyroid hormone-binding proteins. This test is primarily used in concert with a measurement of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and thyroxine (T4) in the diagnosis and management of hyperthyroidism and to clarify thyroid hormone status in the presence of a possible thyroid hormone-binding protein abnormality.

How is the test used?

A free triiodothyronine test is used to assess thyroid function and is primarily used to detect hyperthyroidism, which is when the thyroid produces excessive amounts of T3 and T4. However, low amounts of T3 and T4 may suggest hypothyroidism, indicating an underactive thyroid gland.

What are the symptoms of hyperthyroidism?

A person with elevated levels of T3 and T4 hormones may exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

- Rapid heart rate
- Hand tremors
- Nervousness
- Difficulty sleeping
- Weight loss
- Irritated eyes

What are the symptoms of hypothyroidism?

A person with low levels of T3 and T4 hormones may exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

- Weight gain
- Constipation
- Dry skin
- Cold intolerance
- Fatigue
- Hair loss

What should I do if the results are abnormal or out of range?

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 high: If your results were abnormally high, it may indicate an overactive thyroid gland.

If your results were low: If your results were abnormally low, it may indicate an underactive thyroid gland.

Whether your results are high or low, an abnormal T3 indicates an excess or deficiency in the amount of free triiodothyronine available to the body, but it does not indicate the reason. As with any abnormal results, it's important that you discuss your results with your healthcare provider.

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

- American Thyroid Association: thyroid.org
- Lab Tests Online: labtestsonline.org
- 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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