

Testosterone, Total (Women/Children)

Testosterone is an important hormone for sexual and reproductive development, and plays a role in building muscles and keeping the muscles and bones strong. Testosterone travels through the blood in two ways; attached to proteins and not attached (free) to proteins. This test measures the total level of testosterone in your blood. This test can be helpful in assessing testicular function in prepubescent hypogonadal (diminished functional activity) males, and in managing hirsutism (excessive body hair) or virilization (masculine physical traits) in females. It is recommended to have this test early in the morning when your testosterone levels are the highest.

Do males, females and children all produce testosterone?

Males, females and children all produce testosterone, however women produce smaller amounts.

In young males, testosterone plays a key role during puberty in the development of muscles, deepening the voice, growth of body and facial hair, and penis growth. A male with low testosterone, or hypogonadism, is a clinical syndrome that results from the failure of the testes to produce the needed levels of the hormone.

What are the symptoms of low testosterone levels in pubescent males?

An adolescent male with low testosterone may exhibit a delay in one or more of the following symptoms:

- Muscle mass development
- Voice deepening
- Growth of body and facial hair
- Growth of the penis and testicles

It can also cause excessive growth of the arms and legs in relation to the trunk of the body, and development of breast tissue.

What are the symptoms of abnormal testosterone levels in females?

A female with low testosterone may exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fertility problems
- Low sex drive
- Vaginal dryness
- Skipped or no periods
- Weakened bones

A female with high testosterone may exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

- Acne and oily skin
- Deep voice
- Darkened areas of the skin
- Excess hair on the face or body
- Enlarged clitoris
- Skipped or no periods

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.

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

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov
- 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.



dlodirect.com • 800.891.2917