

## Beaumont Laboratory

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### Transport on Ice Not Required for *Plasma Lactic Acid* Collected in Gray-Top Tubes

Effective Date: January 12, 2015

Beaumont Laboratory (Grosse Pointe / Troy / Royal Oak only) has validated the room temperature stability of plasma Lactic Acid (Lactate) when collected in gray-top tubes, which contain fluoride/oxalate glycolysis inhibitor. Transport on ice is no longer required.

New stability limits for lactic acid in gray-top tubes are given below. All other test requirements remain unchanged (see the [Laboratory Test Directory](#)).

#### Plasma Lactic Acid Specimen Stability for Testing:

##### Uncentrifuged whole blood in fluoride oxalate (Gray-top) tubes

Room Temperature (20-25°C or 68-77°F): 8 hours

Refrigerated (2-8°C or 36-46°F): 7 days

Frozen (-20°C/-4°F or below): Unacceptable

##### Plasma after centrifugation in fluoride oxalate (Gray-top) tubes

Room Temperature (20-25°C or 68-77°F): 8 hours

Refrigerated (2-8°C or 36-46°F): 7 days

Frozen (-20°C/-4°F or below): 30 days (aliquot separated from cells)

**Important: Ice is still a strict requirement for whole blood lactic acid measurements collected in blood gas syringes, as there is no glycolytic inhibitor present in these samples.** CSF lactic acid samples must also be transported on ice. Additionally, transport on ice is still required at this time for samples sent to Beaumont Laboratory at Farmington Hills.

#### References:

1. Astles R, Williams CP, Sedor F. Clin Chem. 1994 Jul;40(7 Pt 1):1327-30.
2. Mikesh LM, Bruns DE. Clin Chem. 2008 May;54(5):930-2.

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

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