



Total Protein, CSF

Alternate Name:	None
Performing Lab:	New Hanover and Cape Fear
Specimen Container:	Sterile Collection Tube
Minimum Volume Required:	0.5 mL
Testing Availability	Routine: 24 hours/day Stat: Yes
Turnaround Time:	< 1 hour
Special Handling:	None
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	
Reference Range:	15 – 45 mg/dL
Critical Value:	None
CPT Code:	
Testing Methodology:	Endpoint
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	The CSF normally contains less than 1% of the amount of protein present in plasma. Clinical disorders associated with increased CSF protein include traumatic spinal tap, increased blood-CSF permeability due to meningitis or hemorrhage, endocrine/metabolic disorders, drug toxicity, and CSF circulation disorders. Clinical disorders associated with decreased CSF total protein include CSF leakage from dural tear, increased intracranial pressure, removal of CSF, hyperthyroidism and leukemia. Young children (6 months to 2 years) also have decreased CSF total protein.