IONIZED CALCIUM/ICA

Ionized calcium is measured by ion-selective electrode potentiometry. In the calculation of results for ionized calcium concentration is related to potential through the Nernst equation. Results are measured at 37°C.

See below for information on factors affecting results. Certain substances, such as drugs, may affect analyte levels *in vivo*.[1]

If results appear inconsistent with the clinical assessment, the patient sample should be retested using another cartridge.

Intended Use

The test for ionized calcium, as part of the i-STAT® System, is intended for use in the *in vitro* quantification of ionized calcium in arterial, venous, or capillary whole blood.

Ionized calcium measurements are used in the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of conditions including, but not limited to, parathyroid disease, a variety of bone diseases, chronic renal disease, tetany, and disturbances related to surgical and intensive care.

Contents

Each i-STAT cartridge contains one reference electrode (when potentiometric sensors are included in the cartridge configuration), sensors for the measurement of specific analytes, and a buffered aqueous calibrant solution that contains known concentrations of analytes and preservatives. For cartridges that contain a sensor for the measurement of ionized calcium, a list of reactive ingredients is indicated below:

Reactive Ingredient	Minimum Quantity
Calcium (Ca^{2+})	0.9 mmol/L

Metrological Traceability

The i-STAT System test for ionized calcium measures ionized calcium (*i.e.* free calcium ion) amount-of-substance concentration in the plasma fraction of arterial, venous, or capillary whole blood (dimension mmol L^{-1}) for *in vitro* diagnostic use. Ionized calcium values assigned to i-STAT's controls and calibration verification materials are traceable to the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standard reference material SRM956. i-STAT System controls and calibration verification materials are validated for use only with the i-STAT System and assigned values may not be commutable with other methods. Further information regarding metrological traceability is available from Abbott Point Care Inc.

Expected Values

Test/Abbreviation	Units*	Reportable Range	Reference Range[2]
Ionized Calcium/iCa	mmol/L	0.25 – 2.50	1.12 – 1.32
	mg/dL	1.0 – 10.0	4.5 – 5.3

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*The i-STAT System can be configured with the preferred units.

To convert a result from mmol/L to mg/dL, multiply the mmol/L value by 4. To convert mmol/L to mEq/L multiply the mmol/L value by 2.

The reference range programmed into the analyzer and shown above is intended to be used as a guide for the interpretation of results. Since reference ranges may vary with demographic factors such as age, gender and heritage, it is recommended that reference ranges be determined for the population being tested.

Clinical Significance

Although most of the calcium in blood is bound to protein or complexed to smaller anionic species, the biologically active fraction of calcium is free ionized calcium. Through its role in a number of enzymatic reactions and in membrane transport mechanisms, ionized calcium is vitally important in blood coagulation, nerve conduction, neuromuscular transmission and in muscle contraction. Increased ionized calcium (hypercalcemia) may result in coma. Other symptoms reflect neuromuscular disturbances, such as hyperreflexia and/or neurologic abnormalities such as neurasthenia, depression or psychosis. Decreased ionized calcium (hypocalcemia) often results in cramps (tetany), reduced cardiac stroke work and depressed left ventricular function. Prolonged hypocalcemia may result in bone demineralization (osteoporosis) which can lead to spontaneous fractures. Measurements of ionized calcium have proven of value under the following clinical conditions: transfusion of citrated blood, liver transplantation, open heart surgery, neonatal hypocalcemia, renal disease, hyperparathyroidism, malignancy, hypertension and pancreatitis.

Performance Characteristics

The typical performance data summarized below was collected in health care facilities by health care professionals trained in the use of the i-STAT System and comparative methods.

Precision data were collected in multiple sites as follows: Duplicates of each control fluid were tested in the morning and in the afternoon on five days for a total of 20 replicates. The averaged statistics are presented below.

Method comparison data were collected using CLSI guideline EP9-A[3]. Venous blood samples were collected in lithium heparin Vacutainer® tubes and analyzed in duplicate on the i-STAT System and on the comparative methods within 10 minutes of each other.

Deming regression analysis[4] was performed on the first replicate of each sample. In the method comparison table, n is the number of specimens in the data set, Sxx and Syy refer to estimates of imprecision based on the duplicates of the comparative and the i-STAT methods respectively, Sy.x is the standard error of the estimate, and r is the correlation coefficient.*

Method comparisons will vary from site to site due to differences in sample handling, comparative method calibration and other site specific variables.

* The usual warning relating to the use of regression analysis is summarized here as a reminder. For any analyte, "if the data are collected over a narrow range, the estimate of the regression parameters is relatively imprecise and may be biased. Therefore, predictions made from these estimates may be invalid."[4] The correlation coefficient, r, can be used as a guide to assess the adequacy of the comparative method range in overcoming this problem. As a guide, the range of data can be considered adequate for r >0.975.

Precision Data (mmol/L)

Aqueous Control	Mean	SD	%CV
Level 1	1.60	0.017	1.1
Level 3	0.84	0.012	1.4

Method Comparison (mmol/L)

	Radiometer ICA1	Nova STAT Profile
n	47	57
Sxx	0.009	0.017
Syy	0.017	0.017
Slope	0.925	0.960
Int't	0.113	0.062
Sy.x	0.035	0.029
Xmin	0.46	0.53
Xmax	2.05	2.05
r	0.982	0.982

Cartridge Comparison

The performance characteristics of the sensors are equivalent in all cartridge configurations. System difference analysis was performed on 24 patient samples using i-STAT CHEM8+ and i-STAT CG8+ cartridges. In the 0.46 - 1.23 mmol/L range, the average difference was 0.003.

Factors Affecting Results*

Venous stasis (prolonged tourniquet application) and forearm exercise may increase ionized calcium due to a decrease in pH caused by localized production of lactic acid[5]. Exposing the sample to air will cause an increase in pH due to the loss of CO_2 which will decrease ionized calcium.

Heparin binds calcium. Each unit of heparin added per mL of blood will decrease ionized calcium by 0.01 mmol/L.[5] Therefore, the correct ratio of heparin anticoagulant to blood must be achieved during sample collection. Intravenous injection of 10,000 units of heparin has been shown in adults to cause a significant decrease of ionized calcium of about 0.03 mmol/L.[5] Use only unheparinized sample transfer devices when using i-STAT's aqueous control and calibration verification materials.

Hemodilution of the plasma by more than 20% associated with priming cardiopulmonary bypass pumps, plasma volume expansion or other fluid administration therapies using certain solutions may cause clinically significant error on sodium, chloride, ionized calcium and pH results. These errors are associated with solutions that do not match the ionic characteristics of plasma. To minimize these errors when hemodiluting by more than 20%, use physiologically balanced multi-electrolyte solutions containing low-mobility anions (e.g., gluconate).

Interference studies were based on CLSI guideline EP7-A2.[6] Test concentrations used were as per the CLSI guideline unless otherwise indicated.

When added to a plasma pool, the following substances (at the concentration indicated) were found to interfere with the i-STAT Ionized Calcium assay:

Substance	Test Concentration (mmol/L)	Interference
Acetaminophen	1.32	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results. See Note below.
Acetylcysteine	10.2	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results. See Note below.
Bromide	37.5	Use another method. See Note below.
Magnesium	1.0	Increased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results by up to 0.04 mmol/L.
Lactate	6.6	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results by up to 0.07 mmol/L.
Nithiodote (sodium thiosulfate)	16.7[14]	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results. See Note below.
Salicylate	4.34	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results. See Note below.
Salicylate *(therapeutic)*	0.5 [9]	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results by up to 0.03 mmol/L. See Note below.
Thiocyanate	6.9	Decreased i-STAT Ionized Calcium results. Use another method.

The following substances are known not to significantly interfere with the i-STAT Ionized Calcium assay at the stated test concentrations:

Substance	Test Concentration (mmol/L)
Acetaminophen *(therapeutic)*	0.132
Acetylcysteine *(therapeutic)*	0.30 [7,8]
Ascorbate	0.34
Bromide *(therapeutic)*	2.5 [10,11,12]
β-Hydroxybutyrate	6.0 [13]

Notes:

1) Acetaminophen has been shown to interfere at a concentration proscribed by the CLSI guideline, 1.32 mmol/L, which represents a toxic concentration. Acetaminophen at 0.132 mmol/L, which represents the upper end of the therapeutic concentration, has been shown not to significantly interfere with i-STAT ionized calcium results.

2) Acetylcysteine has been tested at two levels; the CLSI recommended level and a concentration of 0.30 mmol/L. The latter is 3 times the peak plasma therapeutic concentration associated with treatment to reverse acetaminophen poisoning. APOC has not identified a therapeutic condition that would lead to levels consistent with the CLSI recommended level. Acetylcysteine at a concentration of 10.2 mmol/L decreased i-STAT ionized calcium results, while acetylcysteine at a concentration of 0.3 mmol/L did not significantly interfere with ionized calcium results.

3) Bromide has been tested at two levels; the CLSI recommended level and a therapeutic plasma concentration level of 2.5 mmol/L. The latter is the peak plasma concentration associated with halothane anesthesia, in which bromide is released. APOC has not identified a therapeutic condition that would lead to levels consistent with the CLSI recommended level. Bromide at a concentration of 37.5 mmol/L increased i-STAT ionized calcium results, while bromide at a concentration of 2.5 mmol/L did not significantly interfere with i-STAT ionized calcium results.

4) Salicylate has been shown to significantly decrease ionized calcium results at a concentration proscribed by the CLSI guideline, 4.34 mmol/L, which represents a toxic concentration.Salicylate at 0.5 mmol/L, which represents the upper end of the therapeutic concentration, has been shown to

decrease ionized calcium results by approximately 0.03 mmol/L.

5) Nithiodote (sodium thiosulfate) is indicated for the treatment of acute cyanide poisoning. The journal article titled “Falsely increased chloride and missed anion gap elevation during treatment with sodium thiosulfate” indicated that sodium thiosulfate could be used in the treatment of calciphylaxis indicating that “the highest concentration likely to be seen in plasma [is] after infusion of a 12.5 g dose of sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate. Assuming that the 12.5 g dose of sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate is distributed in a typical blood volume of 5 L with a hematocrit of 40%, the peak sodium thiosulfate plasma concentration expected is 16.7 mmol/L.”[14]

*It is possible that other interfering substances may be encountered. The degree of interference at concentrations other than those listed might not be predictable.

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