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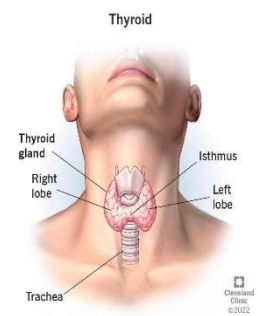
TPO ANTIBODY / THYROID PEROXIDASE ANTIBODY / TPOAB

Introduction: What is a thyroid peroxidase antibody?

Thyroid peroxidase (TPO) is an enzyme normally found in the thyroid gland. TPO plays an important role in the production of thyroid hormones. Anti TPO test detects antibodies against TPO in the blood.

The detection of Thyroid peroxidase antibodies (TPOAb) is an aid in the diagnosis of thyroid autoimmune disorders and enables the physician to differentiate thyroid autoimmune disorders from non-autoimmune goiter or hypothyroidism.

Thyroid peroxidase test is a test that measures the level of an antibody that is directed against thyroid peroxidase (TPO). TPOAbs are produced within the body. The presence of TPOAb in the blood reflects a prior attack on the thyroid tissue by the body's immune system, thus causing hypothyroidism (a condition where there isn't enough thyroid hormone in your bloodstream and your metabolism slows down).



When is this test ordered?

- The doctor may order a TPO antibody test for a pregnant woman with autoimmune disease that involves the thyroid, such as Hashimoto's disease or Graves' disease.
- If there is an abnormal TSH result or symptoms of thyroid disease.
- TPO antibodies may be checked in patients with a high TSH, to help establish the underlying cause.

What are the symptoms of high TPO antibodies?

- Fatigue and sluggishness.
- Increased sensitivity to cold.
- Increased sleepiness.
- Dry skin.
- Constipation.
- Muscle weakness.
- Muscle aches, tenderness, and stiffness.
- Joint pain and stiffness.

Specimen requirement/Type: Serum (Fasting not required)

Reference Range: Male / Female: 0-9 IU/mL

Positive anti TPO: it means the cause of hypothyroidism is an autoimmune disease (e.g. Hashimoto's thyroiditis).

Negative anti TPO: it means they may not have a thyroid disorder and that the high TSH may resolve spontaneously, or there is an underlying thyroid disorder caused by another factor.

References:

1. www.mayoclinic.org
2. www.medlineplus.gov



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