DOUGLASS HANLY MOIR PATHOLOGY
BARRATT & SMITH PATHOLOGY
Quality is in our DNA

Anti-Mullerian hormone & fertility assessment

The anti-Mullerian hormone (AMH) is the test of choice for assessing a woman's ovulatory reserve.

Often called the 'egg-timer' test, it measures the concentrations of AMH, which is produced by cells in a woman's ovaries.

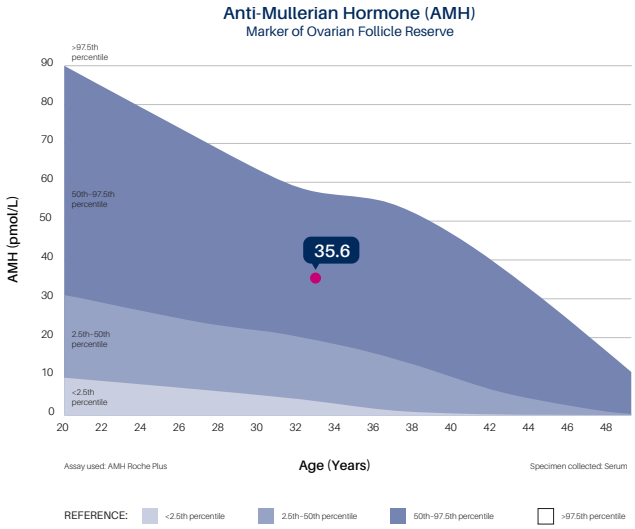
AMH controls the development of follicles in the ovaries, from which ova develop. AMH's role in the ovary is to limit the progression of all but a very few of the ova to the final stage, in preparation for ovulation.

AMH is produced by the granulosa cells surrounding each of the ova, with serum levels correlating with the total number of viable ova.

As would be expected, the AMH level falls with age and after 35 this tends to be rapid in most women. A test result below 14 pmol/L is indicative of a reduction in ovulatory reserve.

The clinical utility of AMH measurement includes:

- Assessing a woman's ovulatory reserve
- Confirmation of menopause
- Follow-up of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS); high AMH levels should fall with appropriate treatment
- Identification of women with ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, in which levels of oestrogen and AMH are very high
- Granulosa cell tumour marker
- Disorders of sexual development and delayed puberty in males and females



Specimen requirements

A plain tube (or SST/gel tube) is required. Serum AMH levels do not fluctuate significantly according to stage of menstrual cycle or time of day so there are no timing requirements for specimen collection.

Oral contraceptives do not appear to have a significant effect on AMH levels and patients can continue with their normal regimen when having the AMH test. However, if a low AMH level is found in a woman who is taking an oral contraceptive, it is advisable to repeat the AMH test three months after stopping the medication to confirm that result.

Cost

Medicare does not cover the cost of this test and your patient will receive an invoice for $85.*

*Correct at time of printing

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the laboratory on (02) 9855 5312.

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