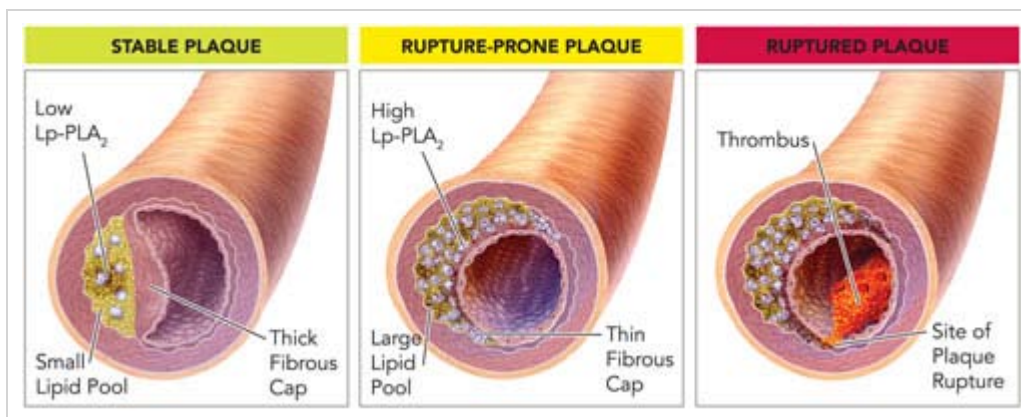


ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: July 30, 2009

Dear Valued Clients:

Foundation Laboratory is pleased to announce that effective August 3, 2009 PLAC test (**CPT Code: 83698**) will be added to in-house testing menu. This test is a turbidometric immunoassay for the quantitative determination of Lp-PLA₂ (lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A₂) in human plasma or serum. The PLAC Test measures Lp-PLA₂ (lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A₂) a vascular-specific inflammatory enzyme implicated in the formation of rupture-prone plaque. It is plaque rupture and thrombosis that cause the majority of cardiac events, not stenosis.



The PLAC Test may be used as a management tool in patients at intermediate to high risk for coronary heart disease or ischemic stroke events. Suitable patients may include patients with two or more risk factors, such as family history of cardiovascular disease or hypertension, even if their overall lipid profile looks normal.

Lp-PLA₂ is independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors. Lp-PLA₂ is produced in the plaque itself making it a more specific test than other inflammatory markers that measure systemic inflammation such as hsCRP. Because elevations in Lp-PLA₂ are independent of



traditional risk factors, including obesity, the results of the PLAC Test provide valuable additive information to help determine the appropriate care for your patients. **The PLAC Test helps identify patients who have “hidden” cardiovascular risk due to the formation of rupture-prone plaque.**

Low Risk: Lp-PLA2 < 200 ng/mL

Borderline Risk: Lp-PLA2 = 200-235 ng/mL

High Risk: Lp-PLA2 > 235 ng/mL

Sample Collection

- Collect blood samples in a serum or plasma collection tube, including those with a gel separator.
- Process samples using standard separation procedures.
 - i. Centrifuge and separate samples within four hours of venipuncture.
- Store processed samples refrigerated at 2 to 8°C.
- Transfer processed sample to test lab within 24 hours.
 - If transporting the sample, ship overnight on cold packs sufficient to maintain 2 to 8°C or frozen (on dry ice).

Precautions

- Exposure of samples to room temperature should be minimized to less than 6 hours (including blood draw, processing, transport and laboratory sample analysis time).
- Storage at **-20°C for longer than 24 hours is not recommended.**

For supplies and other needs please make sure to contact your Foundation Laboratory representative.

Sincerely;

J. Kermani, MSMT (ASCP, NCA), Ph.D.
Director of Technical Operations