

Quick Guide to Plasma Viscosity

Sample Requirement

EDTA Venous blood. Can use or add to a FBC sample

Results in mPa/s at 25°C

< 1.50	Children under 3 years. Hypoproteinaemia (can be due to chemo therapy)
1.50 - 1.72	Normal Adult range
1.72 - 1.80	Equivocal result suggest repeat after appropriate time
1.80 - 2.00	Suggestive of chronic condition (Rheumatoid/infection)
2.00 - 2.30	Suggestive of acute condition
> 2.30	Suggestive of Myeloma
> 2.90	Hyperviscosity. Exclude Macroglobulinaemia as the cause

Are there any other tests comparable to Plasma Viscosity?

Yes. The ESR is probably the most common test for investigating and monitoring patients with chronic or inflammatory conditions.

Why Choose Plasma viscosity?

Compared to the ESR the Plasma Viscosity has several advantages.

2 key advantages are:

- Plasma Viscosity results are calibrated to a primary standard
- Plasma viscosity is not altered by co-existing non-related factors e.g. anaemia

Who says so?

Notably, the International Committee for Standards in Haematology **“Measurement of plasma viscosity has several advantages over the ESR, including independence from the effects of anaemia; a single reference range that is independent of sex and less dependent on age”**

Reference

(INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION IN HAEMATOLOGY (EXPERT PANEL ON BLOOD RHEOLOGY) Guidelines on selection of laboratory tests for monitoring the acute phase response. J Clin Pathol 1988;41:1203-1212)

For further information visit www.bensonviscometers.com or contact your local haematology department for further details of the clinical and scientific benefits of the PV over ESR.