

— Immune System Health

Autoimmune Disease

Your body's immune system protects you from disease and infection. But if you have an autoimmune disease, your immune system attacks healthy cells in your body by mistake. Autoimmune diseases can affect many parts of the body. There are more than 80 types of autoimmune diseases, and some have similar symptoms. Often, the first symptoms are fatigue, muscle aches and a low fever. The classic sign of an autoimmune disease is inflammation, which can cause redness, heat, pain and swelling. The diseases may also have flare-ups, when they get worse, and remissions, when symptoms get better or disappear.

▮ PARIETAL CELL A...

<20.0

(U)

Range: See Comments

PARIETAL CELL AB, ELISA

(U)

Result Comments

Reference Range:

<=20.0	NEGATIVE
20.1-24.9	EQUIVOCAL
>=25.0	POSITIVE

Anti-gastric parietal cell antibodies (Anti-GPA) were previously tested for by indirect immunofluorescence (IF) using mouse stomach as a substrate. Identification of the specific antibody target as H+/K+ ATPase protein (a gastric proton pump) has led to the development of an ELISA based assay. Antibodies to this protein are present in approximately 80% of patients with pernicious anemia and a small percentage of the general adult population. The latter percentage increases with age and may reflect the presence of atrophic gastritis. A negative test does not exclude a diagnosis of pernicious anemia. A test for intrinsic factor blocking antibody (IFab) may provide serological evidence in support of the diagnosis in some of these patients.