

α -FETOPROTEIN

AFP (Alpha-fetoprotein, α -fetoprotein) is a major plasma protein produced by the yolk sac and the liver during fetal development. It is a glycoprotein of 591 amino acids and a carbohydrate moiety. AFP is the most abundant plasma protein found in the human fetus. Plasma levels decrease rapidly after birth. Normal adult levels are usually achieved by the age of 8 to 12 months. The function of AFP in adult humans is unknown.

AFP is measured in pregnant women through the analysis of maternal blood or amniotic fluid, as a screening test for a subset of developmental abnormalities. AFP is also produced by a variety of tumors including hepatocellular carcinoma, hepatoblastoma, and nonseminomatous germ cell tumors of the ovary and testis (eg, yolk sac and embryonal carcinoma), thus can also be used as a biomarker to detect a subset of tumors in non-pregnant women, men, and children. A level above 500 nanograms/milliliter of AFP in adults can be indicative of hepatocellular carcinoma, germ cell tumors, and metastatic cancers of the liver. Serum AFP test is useful for the follow-up management of patients undergoing cancer therapy, especially for testicular and ovarian tumors and for hepatocellular carcinoma.

Description	Abbr.	Cat No.	Remarks
Mouse anti-human α -Fetoprotein monoclonal antibodies	mAb-AFP	SDZ7101900	EIA / WB

AFP