

**TEST: FOLLICLE STIMULATING HORMONE (FSH)**

**PRINCIPLE:**

FSH is secreted by the anterior pituitary under the control of hypothalamic gonadotrophin releasing hormone. The function of FSH in both males and females is to facilitate the development and maintenance of the gonadal tissues. These tissues synthesize and secrete steroid hormones, which in turn control FSH concentrations by negative feedback. At menopause, ovarian function and steroid secretion cease, causing FSH concentrations to rise due to a lack of negative feedback control. FSH concentrations are similarly raised in women of pre-menopausal age who suffer ovarian failure, or whose ovaries failed to mature during puberty. Elevated FSH concentrations are found in males when the testes have failed to develop to functional maturity, or, in cases of infertility due to primary testicular failure.

**SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS:**

2ml serum collected in a red top tube with no additive or in a serum separator tube (gel barrier). Store in the refrigerator at 2°-8° for up to 6 days. For long term storage, freeze at -20° C or below. Avoid thaw freeze cycles.

**METHOD:** Enhanced Chemiluminescence

**REFERENCES:**

1. Short, RV. The Control of Menstruation. *Br J Hosp Med.* 7:552-555; 1972.
2. Hillier SG. Current Concepts of the Roles of Follicle-Stimulating and Luteinizing Hormone  
in Folliculogenesis. *Human Reproduction.* 9:188-191; 1994.
3. Ahmed Ebbiary NA, et al. The significance of Elevated Basal Follicle-Stimulating-Hormone  
In Regularly Menstruating Infertile Women. *Human Reproduction.* 9: 245-252; 1994.

**Normal Range:**

Normal Female Follicular phase:	1.98-11.6 mIU/ml
Normal Female Mid-Cycle Peak:	5.14-23.4 mIU/ml
Normal Female Luteal Phase:	1.38-9.58 mIU/ml
Postmenopausal Female:	21.5-131 mIU/ml
Normal Male (aged 19-65)	1.55-9.74 mIU/ml

**Turnaround Time:** 1 day