Alpha Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH)

Test ID:	91898	CPT:	83520

Clinical Significance:

Alpha MSH is a 13 amino acid peptide (1665 kD) with serine at the N terminal end and amidated valine at the C terminal end. Alpha MSH is derived from pro-opiomelanocorticotropin, a precursor protein which contains within its structure, the sequence of ACTH, beta MSH and gamma MSH. The amino acid sequence of alpha MSH is identical to ACTH 1-13 in humans. Alpha MSH stimulates melanosome dispersion within dermal melanocytes and melanin biosynthesis within epidermal melanocytes. It also stimulates aldosterone synthesis. Plasma alpha MSH increases in humans with high fever due to endotoxin. Average plasma alpha MSH has been found higher in AIDS patients and also in obese men with insulin resistance.

Profile Components:

Labtech Diagnostics

Container:

DTA (lavender-top) tube

Transport Temperature:

Frozen

Specimen:

Plasma

Specimen Stability:

Room temperature: Not stable
Refrigerated: 6 hours
Frozen: 90 days

Reject Criteria:

Received room temperature •
Received refrigerated

Days Performed:

Thursday

Collection Instructions:

Patient Preparation:
Fasting specimen is preferred. Patient should be free from medications for 2 days.

After collection, immediately centrifuge the lavender-top tube at room temperature, transfer plasma to a transport tube, and **freeze. Label this tube "Frozen Plasma"**