

CA125 (Blood Test)

What is CA125?

CA125 is a protein that is a so-called tumour or biomarker. This is a substance that is found in greater concentration in tumour cells than in other cells of the body. In particular, CA125 is present in greater concentration in ovarian cancer cells than in other cells.

It was first identified in the early 1980s, but the function of the CA125 protein is still not currently fully understood. CA stands for cancer antigen.



How is CA125 measured?

CA125 is usually measured from a blood sample and Next Generation Fertility can perform this test.

How is the test used?

For women being investigated for infertility, measurement of CA125 is useful because elevated values might suggest a number of benign conditions including endometriosis, uterine fibroids and pelvic inflammatory disease, all of which can affect your potential to conceive.

Benign tumours or cysts of the ovaries can also cause an abnormal test result as can a pregnancy and whether the blood sample was taken near to beginning your menstrual period.

What is the normal range for CA125?

The normal values for CA125 may vary slightly among individual laboratories but in most laboratories, the normal value is less than 35 U/ml.

What does the test result mean?

It is not possible to fully interpret the meaning of an abnormally high CA125 without additional information about the particular patient being evaluated. This is why you will have other tests performed on your blood sample at the same time your doctor orders this pathology test. The reason is that blood levels of this protein can be increased in many different conditions.

However, when used in healthy women attending an infertility clinic, an elevated CA125 usually does **not** mean ovarian cancer is present. The vast majority of healthy women with an elevated CA125 do not have ovarian cancer (or any other cancer for that matter) because the "false positive" rate for this group of women can be high. Any woman with an abnormal CA125 test result will need other tests, and investigations, to confirm the result.

Referral Information:

As a new or continuing patient at Next Generation Fertility it is required that you have a current referral from your GP or other medical specialist to one of our fertility specialists. You must bring this referral with you on the day of your first appointment.

A referral from your GP lasts for twelve (12) months, however you can request an indefinite referral which will be valid for the entire duration of your treatment. If you bring a referral from a specialist, this will only be valid for a three (3) month period and must be updated after this time.

Appointment Information:

To make an appointment please call our administration team on 1300 300 643.

Our Locations

North Parramatta Rooms

NGF IVF Laboratory
Level 2, 1 Fennell Street
North Parramatta NSW 2151

(02) 9890 9022

Campbelltown Rooms

Campbelltown Private Hospital
Level 1, 42 Parkside Crescent
Campbelltown NSW 2566

1300 300 643

Penrith Rooms

Nepean Private Specialist Centre
Suite 1, 1A Barber Avenue
Kingswood NSW 2747

1300 300 643

Bella Vista Rooms

Norwest Private Hospital
L1, Suite 107, 9 Norbrik Drive
Bella Vista NSW 2153

1300 300 643