

IN THE LAB

A quarterly newsletter for healthcare providers
produced by Bozeman Deaconess Laboratory Services



Bozeman Deaconess
HOSPITAL

THE MARVELS OF MODERN MEDICINE

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SPOTLIGHT ON BEN BLEND, MD



Ben Blend, MD

Ben Blend, MD, the pathologist for Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, is a graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Following medical school, he completed an internal medicine internship at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI. Subsequent to the internship Dr. Blend served as Captain in the U.S. Air Force in the capacity of general medical officer at Scott Air Force Base, IL. During his time in the air force, he decided on a career in pathology and was accepted into the program at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, MA, a Harvard teaching hospital now merged with Beth Israel.

After completing his anatomic

pathology residency in Boston, he was accepted into the program at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, TX, and with his young family moved to his home town, for his clinical pathology residency. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Blend joined A.M. Laboratories, a privately owned reference laboratory founded by Charles T. Ashworth, former chairman of the pathology department at UT Southwestern Medical School. After several years as a partner, the laboratory was sold and Dr. Blend joined the staff at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, a 1,000 bed tertiary care teaching hospital with large oncology and transplant services as well as a pathology residency program.

During his tenure at Baylor, Dr. Blend was active in intradepartmental conferences and was the pathology representative at neuro-oncology,

head and neck, gynecologic and urologic oncology tumor boards where complex cases were presented. He was also known as an exceptional teacher among the residents. Dr. Blend and his wife, Paula, decided several years ago that a change of scenery was in order and moved to Montana to enjoy the mountains and natural beauty of the "last best place."

He joined Dr. Lehfeldt in 2003 at Bozeman Deaconess and since the retirement of Dr. Lehfeldt in 2004, has been the sole pathologist. The pathology department has seen many innovations during Dr. Blend's tenure including the investment in extensive capacity for special immunohistochemistry testing and a state-of-the-art histology laboratory with advanced instrumentation and automated systems for specimen handling and enhancement of patient safety.

NEW TESTING FOR ANTINUCLEAR ANTIBODIES

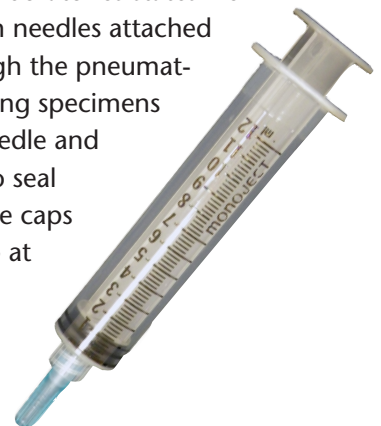
Antinuclear antibodies (ANAs) will be run on a new automated (EIA) platform which is a qualitative enzyme immunoassay intended to screen for the presence of antinuclear antibodies in human serum as an aid in the diagnosis of certain systemic rheumatic diseases. The Laboratory will run the test on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays and will report out all negative results on those days. If the test is positive, we will prepare a slide and report out a Titer and Pattern.

Test Range Updates:

Carboxhemoglobin	Old Reference Range	0.5 to 2.0
	New Reference Range	0.5 to 2.5

SHARPS SAFETY

An OSHA requirement for laboratories states we cannot accept syringes with needles attached nor can they be sent through the pneumatic tube system. When sending specimens in a syringe, remove the needle and replace it with a blue cap to seal the syringe. If you need blue caps please contact the main lab at 585-5010 to order them.



NEW HEMOGLOBIN A1C METHOD

Bozeman Deaconess Hospital Lab is happy to announce that we will soon be performing Hemoglobin A1C assays using a newly revised method.

The method has been revised in order to lower Total Error to meet tightening regulatory requirements and in

order to provide direct traceability of calibrator values to an internationally recognized reference method.

This new method will provide improved accuracy to the international reference system and improved agreement with the National Glycochemo-

globin standardization program.

The method has a new reference range (expected values): 4.2% to 6.3%.

Please contact Mike Long or Mickey Munson in the laboratory at 585-5010 if you have questions.

DEAR LABBY

The Dear Labby column will be featured in each issue and is intended to answer lab questions that you may have that others may wonder about and are afraid to ask.

Dear Labby:

I work as a medical assistant in a large medical practice. The providers with whom I work often ask me to order "vitamin D testing" on their patients. There are several choices and I'm confused as to which one to pick. Can you help me?

Signed: Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed:

25-Hydroxy (OH) Vitamin D is composed of two major subgroups: Vitamin D2 and Vitamin D3. Our body's stores of Vitamin D2 mainly come from plant sources. Our Vitamin D3 can come from animal sources or from our skin when it is exposed to sufficient ultraviolet light.

25 Hydroxy Vitamin D is the most inexpensive and most commonly ordered test to screen for vitamin D deficiency. This testing is performed at Bozeman Deaconess Laboratory and the assay is performed several times a week. The ordering mnemonic for Meditech Lab, Meditech Order Entry and NextGen is: VITDT.

To determine the cause of a deficiency or to confirm compliance with replacement therapy, a physician might want to order a 25 Hydroxy Vitamin D with fractionation. The laboratory measures and reports both the Vitamin D2 and D3 levels along with the total as above. This testing is slightly more expensive and is sent to Mayo Medical Laboratories. The ordering mnemonic for Meditech Lab,

Meditech Order Entry and NextGen is: VITDFMAYO.

There is a third, rarely ordered, test for vitamin D levels: 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D. This test is not the test of choice to evaluate the body's store of vitamin D. However, it is useful as a 2nd-order test in the assessment of vitamin D status in patients with renal disease, in the investigation of some patients with rickets due to renal failure, in parathyroid ailments, and as a differential diagnosis for hypercalcemia. The ordering mnemonic for Meditech Lab, Meditech Order Entry and NextGen is: VITDR.

In short, VITDT is the most frequently ordered test. VITDFMAYO is useful for differentiating the source of the patient's vitamin D levels and VITDR can be useful in some esoteric disease states.

Do not be afraid to call the laboratory at 585-5010 if you are wondering which test to order for which circumstance.

-Labby

Please submit any lab related questions to: mlong@bdh-boz.com.



Did you know a Test Catalog for Clinicians is available on our website?

Bozeman Deaconess Laboratory Services On-line Test Catalog provides clinicians with real time ordering information necessary to ensure the best possible care for your patients. Information provided includes: methodology, specimen requirements, day's set up, reference values and CPT codes. Find it at bozemandeaconess.org/laboratoryservices

For more information please visit us at www.bozemandeaconess.org/laboratoryservices
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