

Abnormal Biochemistry Results

Introduction

In Primary Care, the reviewing of biochemistry results is a regular part of most clinician's daily workload. Abnormal results can often be time consuming and challenging and cause considerable anxiety to the clinician. Many abnormal results can be monitored over time but in some circumstances the abnormalities require urgent or emergency action to prevent the patient from becoming seriously unwell. This module aims to look at common results and help suggest management options for dealing with these. The topics were generated from a discussion group of primary care clinicians prior to writing this module:

- Hypercalcaemia
- Abnormal Liver Function tests - raised transaminases
- Hyperkalaemia
- Hypophosphataemia, hypokalaemia and hypomagnesaemia

Please note that there are regional variations in laboratory reference ranges. For the purposes of discussion, normal ranges are in brackets in the cases below, and these may differ from local ranges.

Intended learning outcomes

Following review and discussion of this module, primary care practitioners should be able to:

- Identify an abnormally high serum/adjusted calcium level, determine likely causes and organise an appropriate management plan.
- Choose appropriate investigations and management of abnormal transaminase blood results.
- Identify appropriate management options in patients with hyperkalaemia.
- Be more confident in managing results in the out of hours setting.
- Manage low phosphate and low potassium results and determine possible causes.

As with all our modules, the content was drawn from a focus group discussion involving a number of PBSGL members drawn from the three main professions participating in our programme. If you would like to determine the content of future modules, please watch out for emails inviting you to attend an online focus group.

Reviewers of this module commented that, due to its size and coverage size, the content could be divided between two meetings: [Part A](#), cases [1](#) and [2](#) and [Part B](#), cases [3](#) and [4](#).