Creatinine Lab Values

Serum creatinine is a breakdown product of creatine phosphate in muscle. It is useful in measuring kidney function, as it is an easily measured byproduct of muscle metabolism. Typically, serum creatinine levels are near 0.6-1.3 mg/dL in a healthy kidney, where it is easily able to filter and excrete creatinine. Rises in creatinine can indicate renal damage or failure, where the kidney is unable to properly filter creatinine, causing this lab value to rise in the serum. Keep in mind that many sources will have ranges that vary. The existing range in this Picmonic can be used to assist clinical decisions. Many factors influence these variations including race, age, and sex.

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Measures Renal Function

Measuring-cup and Kidney

Creatinine helps to measure renal function and is more reliable than the BUN. This is because creatinine is not reabsorbed by the kidney and is readily excreted by the kidneys. If there is renal dysfunction, the kidneys will not properly filter and excrete waste (creatinine), and its value will rise in the serum.

0.6 - 1.3 mg/dL

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The normal range for serum creatinine is 0.6 to 1.3 mg/dL.

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