

LabMed Report

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IN THIS ISSUE: Kappa and lambda immunoglobulin free light chain testing **June 2018** Vol. 3

John C Keep, MD

On June 4, 2018 Munson Medical Center laboratory began offering in-house testing for Kappa and lambda immunoglobulin free light chains in the serum. This automated assay is reportedly more sensitive than immunofixation studies.

This test is helpful in evaluating patients with monoclonal gammopathies in such diseases as multiple myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, and amyloidosis.

The test will be reported as kappa free light chains, lambda free light chains, and a kappa/lambda ratio.

Once an abnormal free light chain kappa/lambda ratio has been demonstrated and the diagnosis has been made, the quantitation of the monoclonal light chain is useful for monitoring disease activity.

One cautionary note: elevated kappa and lambda free light chains may occur due to a polyclonal hypergammaglobulinemia or impaired renal clearance. A specific increase in the free light chain RATIO must be demonstrated for diagnostic purposes.

As this is a new method, consideration should be given to establishing a new baseline for patients who are currently being followed by this test.