pH

pH is measured by direct potentiometry. In the calculation of results for pH, concentration is related to potential through the Nernst equation. Results are reported at 37°C.

See below for information on factors affecting results. Certain substances, such as drugs, may affect analyte levels *in vivo*.[1]

If results appear inconsistent with the clinical assessment, the patient sample should be retested using another cartridge.

Intended Use

The test for pH, as part of the i-STAT System, is intended for use in the *in vitro* quantification of pH in arterial, venous, or capillary whole blood.

pH measurements are used in the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of respiratory disturbances and metabolic and respiratory-based acid-base disturbances.

Contents

Each i-STAT cartridge contains one reference electrode (when potentiometric sensors are included in the cartridge configuration), sensors for the measurement of specific analytes, and a buffered aqueous calibrant solution that contains known concentrations of analytes and preservatives. For cartridges that contain a sensor for the measurement of pH, a list of reactive ingredients is indicated below:

Reactive Ingredient	Minimum Quantity
Hydrogen Ion (H^+)	6.66 pH

Metrological Traceability

The i-STAT System test for pH measures the hydrogen ion amount-of-substance concentration in the plasma fraction of arterial, venous, or capillary whole blood (expressed as the negative logarithm of the relative molal hydrogen ion activity) for *in vitro* diagnostic use. pH values assigned to i-STAT's controls and calibration verification materials are traceable to the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standard reference materials SRMs 186-I, 186-II, 185, and 187. i-STAT System controls and calibration verification materials are validated for use only with the i-STAT System and assigned values may not be commutable with other methods. Further information regarding metrological traceability is available from Abbott Point of Care Inc..

Expected Values

Test/Abbreviation	Units	Reportable Range	Reference Range	
pH		6.50 – 8.20	7.35 – 7.45[2] (arterial)	7.31 – 7.41* (venous)

* Calculated from Siggaard-Andersen nomogram.

Venous samples normally measure 0.01 – 0.03 pH units lower than arterial samples.

Abbott
Point of Care

The reference range programmed into the analyzer and shown above is intended to be used as a guide for the interpretation of results. Since reference ranges may vary with demographic factors such as age, gender and heritage, it is recommended that reference ranges be determined for the population being tested.

Clinical Significance

pH is an index of the acidity or alkalinity of the blood with an arterial pH of <7.35 indicating an acidemia and >7.45 alkalemia.[3]

Temperature "Correction" Algorithm

pH is a temperature-dependent quantity that is measured on the i-STAT System at 37°C. The pH reading at a body temperature other than 37°C can be 'corrected' by entering the patient's temperature on the chart page of the analyzer. See section 12 'Procedure for Cartridge Testing' in the i-STAT 1 System Manual or section 11 'Patient and Control Sample Testing' in the i-STAT System Manual for details. In this case, blood gas results will be displayed at both 37°C and the patient's temperature. The pH at the patient's temperature (T_p) is calculated as follows[4]:

$$pH(T_p) = pH - 0.0147(T_p - 37) + 0.0065(7.4 - pH)(T_p - 37)$$

Note: Patient temperature corrected results are only available on cartridges containing pH, PCO_2, and PO_2 sensors.

Performance Characteristics

The performance characteristics of the sensors are equivalent in all cartridge configurations.

The typical performance data summarized below was collected in health care facilities by health care professionals trained in the use of the i-STAT System and comparative methods.

Precision data were collected in multiple sites as follows: Duplicates of each control fluid were tested in the morning and in the afternoon on five days for a total of 20 replicates. The averaged statistics are presented below.

Method comparison data were collected using CLSI guideline EP9-A[5]. Venous blood samples were collected in evacuated tubes and arterial samples were collected in blood gas syringes with lithium heparin anticoagulant. All sample were analyzed in duplicate on the i-STAT System and on the comparative methods within 10 minutes of each other. Arterial blood samples were collected from hospital patients in 3 mL blood gas syringes and were analyzed in duplicate on the i-STAT-System and the comparative method within 5 minutes of each other.

Deming regression analysis[6] was performed on the first replicate of each sample. In the method comparison table, n is the number of specimens in the data set, Sxx and Syy refer to estimates of imprecision based on the duplicates of the comparative and the i-STAT methods respectively, Sy.x is the standard error of the estimate, and r is the correlation coefficient.*

Method comparisons will vary from site to site due to differences in sample handling, comparative method calibration and other site specific variables.

---

* The usual warning relating to the use of regression analysis is summarized here as a reminder: For any analyte, "if the data is collected over a narrow range, the estimate of the regression parameters are relatively imprecise and may be biased. Therefore, predictions made from these estimates may be invalid".[4] The correlation coefficient, r, can be used as a guide to assess the adequacy of the comparative method range in overcoming this problem. As a guide, the range of data can be considered adequate if r>0.975.

Precision Data

Aqueous Control	Mean	SD	%CV
Level 1	7.165	0.005	0.08
Level 3	7.656	0.003	0.04

Method Comparison

	IL BGE	Radiometer ICA 1	Nova STAT Profile 5	Radiometer ABL500
n	62	47	57	45
Sxx	0.005	0.011	0.006	0.004
Syy	0.009	0.008	0.008	0.008
Slope	0.974	1.065	1.058	1.0265
Int't	0.196	-0.492	-0.436	-0.1857
Sy.x	0.012	0.008	0.010	0.0136
Xmin	7.210	7.050	7.050	
Xmax	7.530	7.570	7.570	
r	0.985	0.990	0.9920	.986

Factors Affecting Results*

Venous stasis (prolonged tourniquet application) and forearm exercise may decrease pH due to localized production of lactic acid. Exposing the sample to air will cause an increase in pH due to the loss of CO_2. pH decreases on standing anaerobically at room temperature at a rate of 0.03 pH units per hour.[3]
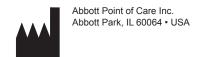
Hemodilution of the plasma by more than 20% associated with priming cardiopulmonary bypass pumps, plasma volume expansion or other fluid administration therapies using certain solutions may cause clinically significant error on sodium, chloride, ionized calcium and pH results. These errors are associated with solutions that do not match the ionic characteristics of plasma. To avoid these errors when hemodiluting by more than 20%, use physiologically balanced multi-electrolyte solutions containing low-mobility anions (e.g. gluconate) such as Normosol®-R (Abbott Laboratories), Plasma-Lyte®-A (Baxter Healthcare Corporation), and Isolyte®-S (B Braun Medical) rather than solutions such as normal saline or Ringer's Lactate.

*It is possible that other interfering substances may be encountered. These results are representative and your results may differ somewhat due to test-to-test variation. The degree of interference at concentrations other than those listed might not be predictable.

References

1. D.S. Young, Effects of Drugs on Clinical Laboratory Tests, 3rd ed. (Washington, DC: American Association of Clinical Chemistry, 1990).

2. P.C. Painter, J.Y. Cope, J.L. Smith, "Reference Ranges, Table 41–20" in Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry—Second Edition, C.A. Burtis and E.R. Ashwood, eds. (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 1994).

3. E.L. Pruden, O. Siggaard-Andersen, and N.W. Tietz, Blood Gases and pH, in Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry, Second Edition, ed. C.A. Burtis and E.R. Ashwood. (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Company, 1994.

4. CLSI. *Blood Gas amd pH Analysis and Related Measurements; Approved Guideline.* CLSI document C46-A [ISBN 1-56238-444-9]. CLSI, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898, USA 2001.

5. CLSI. *Method Comparison and Bias Estimation Using Patient Samples; Approved Guideline.* CLSI document EP9-A [ISBN 1-56238-283-7]. CLSI, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898, USA 1995.

6. P.J. Cornbleet and N. Gochman, "Incorrect Least-Squares Regression Coefficients in Method-Comparison Analysis," Clinical Chemistry 25:3, 432 (1979).

Abbott Point of Care Inc.
Abbott Park, IL 60064 • USA

EC | REP

Emergo Europe
Molenstraat 15
2513 BH, The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: (31)70 345 8570
Fax: (31)70 346 7299

CE

IVD