

Arterial Blood Gas (ABG)

Your doctor has referred you to TML Pathology for an Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) test.

THE TEST

An Allen's test (checking the pulse of the ulnar and radial arteries) is performed first to check you have good circulation in your wrist. A sample of blood is drawn, preferably from the radial artery in your wrist, to measure how well your lungs transport oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide from your blood. Acid-base balance (pH) is also measured.

Results determine if you are receiving adequate oxygen, whether you have a pH imbalance and allow consideration of treatment requirements. You may feel slight discomfort during the collection.

You will be required to remain at the clinic during the entire procedure.

AFTER CARE

Firm pressure must be applied to the site for 5 minutes or longer, until the bleeding stops.

A bandage will be placed on your wrist and will be required to remain for one - two hours. Limited activity is to be performed for the following 24 hours. If the site begins to bleed, apply firm pressure until the bleed ceases.

If you have any concerns, or experience burning, numbness or tingling in your hand, consult your GP.

This is a special test which is only performed at selected collection centres.

Please call **(03) 6711 2000** (Launceston) or **(03) 6108 9900** (Hobart) to find a centre which performs this test.

For more information please contact your local laboratory: Launceston (03) 6711 2000, Hobart (03) 6108 9900 tmlpath.com.au