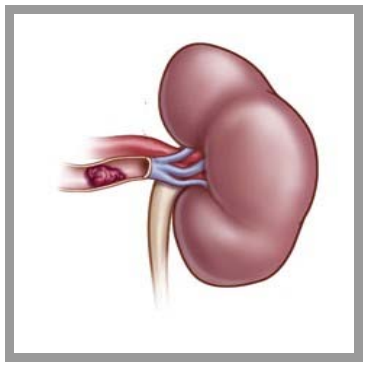
C-Reactive Protein

C-Reactive Protein (CRP) is an acute phase protein produced by the liver and is secreted in increased amounts of an acute inflammatory stimulus.

Normal concentration in healthy human serum is usually lower than 10 mg/L, slightly increasing with ageing. Variation within the normal range can be used for risk assessment of cardiovascular disease and for detection of renal allograft rejection.

Serial serum CRP levels are also useful to early detection of bacterial infections in newborns to speed up the treatment. Newborns with CRP levels of 3 mg/L or greater were considered likely to be infected. CRP could be a key parameter for individually guiding the duration of antibiotic treatment in a major subgroup of newborns with suspected bacterial infection.


Higher values are abnormal and indicate a heightened state of inflammation in the body. It is a very sensitive index for late pregnant women, mild inflammation and viral infections (10–40 mg/L), active inflammation, bacterial infection (40–200 mg/L), severe bacterial infections and burns (>200 mg/L). As elevated CRP values are always associated with pathological changes, the CRP assay provides useful information for the diagnosis, therapy and monitoring of inflammatory processes and associated disease.