

Article 1346

## **Overview**

There are a number of ways to test liver function. Each test has its own name, as listed in the section below.

## **Who is a candidate for the test?**

Liver function tests are ordered to see if the person's liver is healthy and functioning properly.

## **How is the test performed?**

For the specific way in which each liver test is performed, refer to one of the following tests:

- » albumin, a protein synthesized by the liver
- » ALP, an enzyme found in the liver, bones and placenta
- » ALT (or SGPT), an enzyme found primarily in liver cells
- » AST (or SGOT), an enzyme found in the liver as well as many other body organs
- » serum bilirubin, a waste product formed by the breakdown of red blood cells
- » urine bilirubin
- » GGT, an enzyme present in the liver, pancreas and kidney
- » LDH, an enzyme found in the liver and many other body cells
- » PT or prothrombin time, which tests the blood's ability to clot
- » total cholesterol, a substance stored in the liver
- » total protein, a nutrient normally broken down by the liver and its enzymes

## **What is involved in preparation for the test?**

Specific instructions should be requested from the healthcare provider.

## **What do the test results mean?**

See the results given for each individual test of liver function.