

Falsely Elevated CO₂ (Bicarbonate) In Samples with High LDH

On October 14, 2025, the laboratory received notification from the manufacturer that certain bicarbonate reagent lots may produce falsely elevated CO₂/bicarbonate results in specimens with elevated lactate dehydrogenase (LDH).

Samples with LDH $\geq 2,000$ U/L may show a positive bias in CO₂/bicarbonate of up to 12%. The degree of bias increases with LDH concentration.

Samples within the normal adult or neonatal/infant LDH reference ranges are not affected.

The following comment will be appended to abnormal CO₂ results:

“Elevated lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) levels may cause falsely elevated bicarbonate results.
Interpret bicarbonate in conjunction with LDH when appropriate.”

Questions may be directed to Ria C. Fyffe-Freil, Ph.D., NRCC (Director of Clinical Chemistry) at rfyffefreil@unmc.edu, office phone 402-552-7204, or pager 402-888-6436.

Contact Regional Pathology Services

Call: 800-334-0459 | email: pathclientservrps@unmc.edu