Materials and Methods

- Testing for AFP was performed on the Beckman Coulter Access 2 and the Roche Diagnostics Modular Analytics E170 analyzers.
- Subjects were assessed for enrollment by a Physician Assistant prior to undergoing elective surgical procedures.
- Subjects were assessed for enrollment by a Physician Assistant prior to undergoing elective surgical procedures.

Results

- Pediatric reference intervals were established in subjects 6 months through 6 years of age for 2 automated immunoassays.
- Significant differences were observed among age and gender, particularly in the earlier ages of life.
- AFP concentrations in pediatric subjects reached adult concentrations by 3 years of age.
- Comparison between the Access and E170 was excellent, yet caution should be used when comparing results between these 2 methods.

Abstract (revised)

Increased concentrations of alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) are observed in a number of diseases. It is primarily used to aid diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinomas and as a marker of other tumors [1]. AFP is also used independently in conjunction with other tests to screen for chromosomal abnormalities, birth defects, and other pregnancy related syndromes and complications [2].

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References