



## ▶ **Cartilage Oligomeric Matrix Protein (COMP)**

**Utilities:** COMP was first described in cartilage, tendons and synovial membranes. It is well documented that when articular cartilage matrix is degraded by a disease process, protein fragments are produced and diffuse out into the joint fluid. Some of these proteins, such as COMP, subsequently appear in the blood circulation and can be used to monitor the progress of cartilage degradation in inflammatory joint diseases.

The elevated COMP level is an aid in identifying aggressive destruction of joint tissue in diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. The COMP serum level is highly correlated to the severity of arthritis and also to clinical joint score and histopathological signs of cartilage erosion. COMP serum concentration can be used to assess cartilage degradation in inflammatory joint diseases and to help guide treatment decisions. Results less than or equal to 15 U/L suggest decreased risk for cartilage degradation. Results greater than 15 U/L suggest increased risk for aggressive cartilage destruction.

**Methodology:** EIA

**Specimen Requirement:** 1 mL Serum (Minimum: 0.5 mL), ambient, refrigerated or frozen

**Normal Range:** <15 U/L

**Turnaround Time:** 3 - 7 Days

**Test #:** 157