

Beta-human chorionic gonadotropin

Beta [human chorionic gonadotropin](#) (β -hCG) levels in [germinomas](#) and [embryonal carcinomas](#) are inconsistent but are usually more detectable in cerebrospinal fluid. High β hCG levels in germinomas have been associated with a worse prognosis.

Elevated CSF beta human chorionic gonadotropin (β -hCG) is classically associated with [choriocarcinomas](#) but also occurs with up to 50% of [germinomas](#) (which are more common).

Diagnostic marker

Elevated Beta [Human chorionic gonadotropin](#) occurs with up to 50 % of [germinomas](#).

Marked elevations of [AFP](#) and [bHCG](#) in serum or CSF may serve as surrogate diagnostic markers in lieu of histology for primary CNS mixed, malignant germ cell tumors. Lumbar CSF was a more informative screen for bHCG than serum but the majority of patients (60%) had normal bHCG values at diagnosis. Until a more sensitive tumor marker for germinoma is devised, histologic confirmation remains the standard of care ¹⁾.

CSF hCG assay is a sensitive method for diagnosing intracranial ectopic germinoma ²⁾.

¹⁾

Allen J, Chacko J, Donahue B, Dhall G, Kretschmar C, Jakacki R, Holmes E, Pollack I. Diagnostic sensitivity of serum and lumbar CSF bHCG in newly diagnosed CNS germinoma. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2012 Dec 15;59(7):1180-2. doi: 10.1002/pbc.24097. Epub 2012 Feb 2. PubMed PMID: 22302772; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3356788.

²⁾

Tian C, Shi Q, Pu C, Huang X, Yu S, Zhang J, Huang D, Wang X, Liu R. Re-evaluation of the significance of cerebrospinal fluid human chorionic gonadotropin in detecting intracranial ectopic germinomas. *J Clin Neurosci*. 2011 Feb;18(2):223-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jocn.2010.04.041. Epub 2010 Dec 15. PubMed PMID: 21163658.

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