

# Transferrin

**Transferrin** is a transport protein for iron. It is a complex formed by the protein apotransferrin and two iron atoms. Transferrin is found in the plasma, where it ensures the transport of iron to the tissues. In addition, apotransferrin is secreted by liver cells into the bile and drains through the bile into the small intestine. Here, apotransferrin absorbs iron from food to form transferrin and the entire complex is absorbed into the enterocytes. Apotransferrin belongs to the group of  $\beta$ -globulins, its amount in plasma is approximately 3 g/l.<sup>[1]</sup>

The level of transferrin in the serum **rises** when there is a lack of iron in the body. However, if iron deficiency is accompanied by hypoproteinemia, the transferrin level will not rise. The level of transferrin in the serum **decreases** with an excess of iron (hemosiderosis, osteomyelofibrosis etc.) and with insufficient protein synthesis in the liver. A slight decrease is accompanied by an acute load (negative reactant of the acute phase).<sup>[2]</sup> increased iron transferring saturation hemochromatosis.

## Links

### Related Articles

- Ferritin

### External links

- Transferrin (czech wikipedia)
- Transferrin (English wikipedia)

### Reference

1. ŠVÍGLEROVÁ, Jitka. *Transferrin* [online]. [cit. 2010-11-13]. <<https://web.archive.org/web/20160306065550/http://wiki.lfp-studium.cz/index.php/Transferrin>>.
2. RACEK, J. *Klinická biochemie*. first edition. Galén – Karolinum, 1999. pp. 64. ISBN 80-7262-023-1.