Don’t Order Amylase Level in Diagnosing and Monitoring Acute Pancreatitis If the Lipase Assay Is Available

Lipase and Amylase both are used as a marker indicating acute pancreatitis. However multiple studies have shown that lipase level is superior marker for acute pancreatitis with higher specificity and sensitivity compared to amylase.

Furthermore, lipase level demonstrates a prolonged elevation period compared to amylase which is helpful in cases with delayed presentation. We recommend refraining from performing amylase level in diagnosing and monitoring acute pancreatitis if the lipase assay is available.

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