

CardioMetabolic Profile I for Cardiovascular Risk Screening



Why screen for risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes?

The news media frequently reports the growing numbers of people with cardiovascular disease and type II (“adult onset”) diabetes, especially in countries like the United States. Risk for

these diseases is known to be particularly high in people who have a disorder known as “metabolic syndrome”, which is often associated with being overweight.

Health-conscious people know that it’s important to eat a healthy diet and take regular exercise, which can reverse metabolic syndrome and significantly reduce their chances of becoming diabetic, or of developing diseases of the heart and blood vessels, collectively known as “cardiovascular” disease. But the continual rise in obesity rates to epidemic levels shows that not enough people are taking their long-term health seriously.

A simple blood spot test can help people understand that they are at risk. ZRT’s CardioMetabolic Profile tests blood markers that can identify people at high risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes. If levels of several of these blood markers are abnormal, this should be an important “wake-up call” that tells them they need to tackle the problem. The good news is that there are simple lifestyle changes that they can make to get back on the right track to health.

What are the signs of metabolic syndrome?

It is very likely that you could be diagnosed with metabolic syndrome if you have several of the following conditions:

- Obesity, especially in the waist/abdominal area (the “apple-shaped” body type)
- A body mass index (BMI) greater than 25
- High blood pressure
- Insulin resistance and/or glucose intolerance (high fasting blood glucose or high fasting insulin levels)
- An abnormal lipid profile known as “atherogenic dyslipidemia” (low HDL cholesterol, high LDL cholesterol, high VLDL cholesterol, high triglycerides)
- Inflammation

Your doctor can diagnose metabolic syndrome by evaluating these conditions. The last three (insulin resistance, atherogenic dyslipidemia, and inflammation) are known as cardiometabolic risk factors and can only be assessed by a blood test such as the CardioMetabolic Profile.

What are the cardiometabolic risk factors?

Fasting Insulin – Checking insulin levels following a 12-hour fast is a reliable way of measuring the degree of insulin resistance. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas and is used by most cells, particularly muscle and liver cells, to take in glucose for immediate conversion to energy, or to store it for future use. In the case of insulin resistance, cells do not respond to insulin normally, and insulin levels rise above normal levels. Insulin resistance is usually associated with increasing body fat, but it can also occur in people of normal weight. When insulin resistance is present, this can also lead to frequently high blood sugar levels, which can evolve into full-blown diabetes. High insulin levels can create other metabolic disturbances that lead to changes in the blood lipid profile and high blood pressure.

Hemoglobin A1c – This test assesses the average blood sugar level over the past three months. HbA1c measurements are considered to be a more reliable indicator of overall high blood sugar than an occasional fasting blood glucose level test, because fasting blood glucose can vary considerably from day to day. Consistently elevated blood glucose, evidenced by high HbA1c levels, indicates a loss of blood sugar control that may lead to diabetes.

Total Cholesterol, LDL Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, and VLDL Cholesterol – High levels of total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and VLDL cholesterol have consistently been associated with risk of cardiovascular disease because they can contribute to plaque buildup in the arteries, known as “atherosclerosis”. HDL cholesterol, however, is known as “good” cholesterol because high levels of this are known to reduce cardiovascular disease risk. A low level of HDL cholesterol is one of the criteria for diagnosing metabolic syndrome. Too much “bad” cholesterol and too little “good” cholesterol is called “atherogenic dyslipidemia”, which means an abnormal lipid profile that leads to atherosclerosis and therefore increased risk of heart disease and stroke.

Fasting Triglycerides – High triglycerides are a significant component of the metabolic condition that leads to arterial plaque buildup, and often are linked with blood sugar dysfunction. In people with diabetes, triglyceride levels can increase significantly. High fasting triglyceride levels are another very important indicator of atherogenic dyslipidemia, and one of the established criteria for diagnosing metabolic syndrome.

High-sensitivity C-Reactive Protein (hs-CRP) – This protein, produced in the liver, is one of the key indicators of inflammation in the body. CRP levels can rise to very high levels in the presence of acute inflammation or infection. However, a high sensitivity assay detects the smaller rises in CRP levels that are associated with the metabolic syndrome. This is known as “high sensitivity” CRP and can be measured very accurately in blood spots. High hs-CRP test results can be an early indicator of cardiovascular risk.

Are there special instructions for testing with blood spot?

The CardioMetabolic Profile test can be easily done in your doctor’s office or conveniently at home. This is particularly important because a fasting blood spot sample is needed for the tests, so collection at home can be done easily before breakfast. Blood spot collection is easy – full instructions come with the test kit, and you can also watch a short video demonstration at www.bloodspotvideo.com. After a simple nick of the finger with the lancet provided, blood drops are collected on the filter card provided and sent to ZRT Laboratory for analysis.

What simple lifestyle changes may improve overall risk?

First and most important is to be aware that you may have a problem. The CardioMetabolic Profile test results, along with blood pressure testing, waist circumference, and BMI (Body Mass Index) measurements (see chart at right), will help your doctor to assess your risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

- Lose weight (especially with abdominal obesity)
- Increase physical activity to at least 30-60 minutes a day, and include simple changes such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator wherever possible
- Do weight-bearing exercises including strength training
- Replace white flour and sugars with more whole grains, fiber, fruits and vegetables
- Reduce meal portion sizes – stop eating before you are full
- Stop smoking
- Minimize unnecessary stress with relaxation techniques

Body Mass Index, or BMI, is the measurement of choice for physicians and researchers for measuring obesity. BMI uses a mathematical formula that takes into account both a person’s height and weight. You can calculate your personal BMI by cross referencing your height and weight using the chart below.

BMI (kg/m ²)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	35	40
Height (in.)	Weight (lb.)													
58	91	96	100	105	110	115	119	124	129	134	138	143	167	191
59	94	99	104	109	114	119	124	128	133	138	143	148	173	198
60	97	102	107	112	118	123	128	133	138	143	148	153	179	204
61	100	106	111	116	122	127	132	137	143	148	153	158	185	211
62	104	109	115	120	126	131	136	142	147	153	158	164	191	218
63	107	113	118	124	130	135	141	146	152	158	163	169	197	225
64	110	116	122	128	134	140	145	151	157	163	169	174	204	232
65	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	210	240
66	118	124	130	136	142	148	155	161	167	173	179	186	216	247
67	121	127	134	140	146	153	159	166	172	178	185	191	223	255
68	125	131	138	144	151	158	164	171	177	184	190	197	230	262
69	128	135	142	149	155	162	169	176	182	189	196	203	236	270
70	132	139	146	153	160	167	174	181	188	195	202	207	243	278
71	136	143	150	157	165	172	179	186	193	200	208	215	250	286
72	140	147	154	162	169	177	184	191	199	206	213	221	258	294
73	144	151	159	166	174	182	189	197	204	212	219	227	265	302
74	148	155	163	171	179	186	194	202	210	218	225	233	272	311
75	152	160	168	176	184	192	200	208	216	224	232	240	279	319
76	156	164	172	180	189	197	205	213	221	230	238	246	287	328



Want to learn more about ZRT’s simple Blood Spot Test? Visit bloodspotvideo.com.