

Evaluation of Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) results

Cut-off value

50 $\mu\text{g/L}$

Cross-reactivity

This assay detects all major metabolites of Δ^9 THC.

Metabolism

THC is a fat-soluble drug that is stored in fat throughout the body and slowly released. It undergoes hepatic metabolism and may be detected in the urine of a chronic user for 4 weeks or longer. Metabolites are detectable for an average of 1–2 days, but can be detected for as long as 7 days, after a single cannabis (marijuana) cigarette. Urinary creatinine should be taken into consideration when assessing THC clearance over a period of time.

Half-life

20–36 hours

Passive inhalation

Levels up to 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (but usually $< 25 \mu\text{g/L}$) after passive inhalation have been reported in the literature. Repeat testing 24–36 hours later should prove negative if levels are thought to be due to passive inhalation, since body-fat THC stores are low in this circumstance.