

BALANCETEST

SELF-TEST FOR ANALYZING FATTY ACIDS IN THE BLOOD



PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Zinzino's BalanceTest is an easy self-test for analyzing the fatty acids found in capillary blood obtained from a fingertip using the Dried Blood Spot (DBS) technique. A DBS is scientifically proven to be as accurate as a venous blood sample when fatty acids are to be analyzed. All it requires is a few drops of blood from the fingertip on a Whatman® filter paper and it takes less than a minute to complete.

VITAS Analytical Services in Norway will anonymously analyze the percentage content of 11 fatty acids, which together represent approximately 98% of the fatty acids in the blood and the values reflect your diet for the last 120 days, which is the lifetime of blood cells. The result is then displayed, after about 10-20 days, on the zinzinotest.com website.

KEY BENEFITS

- ▶ **Easy-to-use dried blood spot self-test**
- ▶ **Measures 11 fatty acids in your blood**
- ▶ **Provides data about your Omega-6:3 Balance**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You should take your first* BalanceTest, and then start at once to take your daily dosage of Zinzino Balance products. Continue to take the Balance products as recommended for 120 days, and then take your second BalanceTest to find out how your fatty acid profile has changed.

*Should your initial results show an Omega-6:3 Balance of 3:1 or better, then you should contact Zinzino since you do not need the Balance product.

WHAT WE MEASURE

The test measures 11 fatty acids, including saturated, monounsaturated (Omega-9) and polyunsaturated (Omega-6 and Omega-3) fatty acids. Individual fatty acid values are shown in the table and expressed as percentages of the total fatty acids measured. For comparison in the table, the average range for each fatty acid (based on data obtained from a large group of balanced people) is presented as Target Value. The following fatty acids are measured:

Palmitic acid, C16:0, saturated fat

Stearic acid, C18:0, saturated fat

Oleic acid, C18:1, Omega-9

Linoleic acid, C18:2, Omega-6

Alpha-linolenic acid, C18:3, Omega-3

Gamma-linolenic acid, C18:3, Omega-6

Dihomo-gamma-linolenic acid, C20:3, Omega-6

Arachidonic acid (AA), C20:4, Omega-6

Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), C20:5, Omega-3

Docosapentaenoic acid (DPA), C22:5, Omega-3

Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), C22:6, Omega-3

INDEPENDENT LABORATORY

Your test is analyzed by an independent and GMP-certified laboratory. The fact that Vitas is GMP-certified means that they follow good manufacturing practices. They are a contract laboratory for chemical analysis with 25 years of experience, providing high-quality chromatographic analysis based on cutting-edge knowledge and technology. Included with the blood test is a BalanceTest ID that only you can see. Neither the lab, nor Zinzino knows who submitted the test. At zinzinotest.com your results will be displayed when you enter your BalanceTest ID. If you have completed the questionnaire, you will have access to the complete analysis. If you have not completed the questionnaire, you will see your balance score only.

CERTIFIED TEST KIT

The Zinzino Dried Blood Spot Test is certified to comply with the European regulation 98/79/EB on in vitro diagnostic (IVD) medical devices. This means the test and all its components are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and so the Kit has the CE mark on it.

THIS IS HOW YOUR RESULTS ARE CALCULATED

11 fatty acids are analyzed and the total sum of their amounts is considered 100%. For the following 6 values, we use 7 of the fatty acids. The analyzed amount of each of the 7 fatty acids is calculated as a percentage out of the 100%.

1. Omega-3 Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)
2. Omega-3 Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)
3. Omega-3 Docosapentaenoic acid (DPA)
4. Omega-6 Arachidonic acid (AA)
5. Omega-6 Dihomo-gamma-linolenic acid (DGLA)
6. Saturated fat, Palmitic acid (PA)
7. Saturated fat, Stearic acid (SA)

PROTECTION VALUE

First, the following 3 recognized health indicators are calculated:

1. The value for the Omega-6 ratio is calculated like this:
 $(DGLA+AA) * 100 / (DGLA+AA+EPA+DPA+DHA)$
2. The value for the Omega-3 level is the sum of EPA+DHA
3. The Balance value is calculated as Omega-6 (AA) / Omega-3 (EPA)

Each indicator value is given the same weight in a second calculation and assigned a value between 0 and 100, which is then divided by 3 to get the Protection Value that ideally should be above 90. This does not tell anything about the health status of the person, only the fatty acid protection level.

Note! EPA and DHA values have a high impact on all the calculations and if EPA and DHA percentages are low, then as a result very low or even zero Protection Values are not uncommon.

OMEGA-3 INDEX

The Omega-3 Index is the summary of the percentage values for the two marine Omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA. The ideal combined level is at least 8%, but higher values like 10% are desirable.

Omega-3's have many benefits because they are the primary building blocks in your cells. EPA is dominant in the blood, muscles and tissues, while DHA is dominant in the brain, sperm and eyes.

OMEGA-6:3 BALANCE

The balance is calculated by dividing the percent value of AA with the percent value of EPA (AA / EPA), which is then expressed as a Balance value, for example 3:1. The Omega-6:3 Balance in the body should preferably be below 3:1.

If this ratio is above 3:1, you will benefit from a change in your diet. A low balance of Omega-6 and Omega-3 is important for maintaining normal cell and tissue development (homeostasis) and help the body control inflammation.

CELL MEMBRANE FLUIDITY

Fluidity is calculated by dividing the percent value of the two saturated fats with the percent value of the two Omega-3's. The fluidity value is thus defined as $(PA+SA) / (EPA+DHA)$, and the result is expressed as a fluidity index, for example 3:1. If the fluidity value is below 4:1, it shows that there is sufficient fluidity in cell membranes.

The more saturated the fats are in a membrane, the more rigid is the membrane. Conversely, the more polyunsaturated the fats are in a membrane, the more fluid is the membrane. Cell membrane composition and structural architecture is critical for the health of the cells and hence the body. On the one hand, the membrane needs to be rigid enough to provide sound cellular structural architecture. On the other hand, the membrane needs to be fluid enough to allow nutrients in and waste products out.

MENTAL STRENGTH

This is calculated by dividing the percent value of AA with the sum of the percent values of EPA and DHA, i.e. the Mental Strength value = $AA / (EPA+DHA)$. The result is expressed as a mental strength value, for example 1:1. The value should be below 1:1 for sufficient and balanced supply of both Omega-6 and Omega-3 fatty acids to the brain and the nervous system.

Cognitive performance improves with increased consumption of marine Omega-3's EPA and DHA. Childhood and old age are two critical and vulnerable stages and Omega-3 deficiency is associated with learning and memory deficits, as well as mood problems.

ARACHIDONIC ACID (AA) INDEX

The AA Index shows the measured value of the Omega-6 fatty acid Arachidonic acid (AA) as a percentage out of the total fatty acids measured. Good average values are in the range of 6.5 to 9.5% with an optimum target value of 8.3%.

Arachidonic acid (AA) is the most important Omega-6 fatty acid for the body. It is the starting point for the production of local tissue hormones triggered by Omega-6, such as prostaglandins, thromboxanes and leukotrienes, all with various functions. The overall function is, however, to protect the body from damage by limiting the progression of the infection or the impact of the injury.

TAKING THE TEST

1. Zinzino Test is an approved in vitro diagnostics product for personal blood sample collection at home.

- First wash your hands with soap and rinse well with warm water and dry them.

2. Take out the **sample card** from the paper envelope.

Save the envelope for later use.

Tear off the **SAVE** part on the sample card and take a picture of the test ID. You can **only** see **your** test result with your anonymous test ID. Place the card with the two circles facing up on the table.

3. Stimulate blood flow by making big circles with your arm or shaking the hand downwards for 20 seconds.

4. Take out the single-use lancet. Remove the transparent safety cap and the lancet is ready to use.

Use the alcohol wipe to clean the tip of your finger (middle finger is recommended).

Place the lancet against the **lower** part of the fingertip facing the collection paper on the table. Push the top of the lancet towards the finger until you hear a click. The lancet will automatically make a small prick in the finger.

5. Do not touch the filter paper with your fingers.

6. Fill one circle at a time with blood. Squeeze your finger gently and wait for a drop of blood to fall inside the circle by itself. If one drop of blood does not cover the circle, allow one more drop from your finger to drip immediately.

Leave the **sample card** in a horizontal position at room temperature for at least 10 minutes for the samples to dry well.

7. Insert the **sample card** back into the paper envelope. Then place the paper envelope into the metal bag and **close it**.

IMPORTANT: Do not remove desiccant packet inside the metal bag.

8. Place the closed metal bag into the big envelope with the laboratory address on it. **NOTE!** You **must** put the correct amount of postage stamps on the envelope before you put in the mail box.

Register your test code on www.zinzinotest.com. This is the web page where you can see your test result later. It takes 10-20 days until your result is ready.

IMPORTANT: Keep the **SAVE** part of the card. You can **only** see **your** test result with your anonymous test ID.



