

Interpretation of Laboratory Studies for the Assessment of Iron Deficiency Anemia, Anemia of Inflammation (Functional Iron Deficiency) and Combined True and Functional Iron Deficiency

	IDA*	Aol* or FID*	Aol+ID*
Serum iron	↓	↓	↓
Transferrin	↑	↓ or normal	↓
Transferrin saturation	↓	↓	↓
Ferritin	↓	Normal or ↑	↑, normal, or ↓
Soluble transferrin receptor	↑	Normal	Normal or ↑
CRP	Normal	↑	↑

Note: Serum ferritin should not be used alone as the only indicator of iron stores. Ferritin is an acute-phase reactant. Ferritin may be increased in patients with decreased iron stores if there is coexisting acute or chronic inflammation, infection, liver disease, hyperthyroidism, malignancies, alcohol consumption, and oral contraceptives.

Abbreviations: ↑ = increased; ↓ = decreased; **IDA** = Iron deficiency anemia; **Aol** = Anemia of inflammation or Functional iron deficiency (also referred to as anemia of chronic disease). **Aol+ID** = patients with both Aol and true iron deficiency.