Tina-quant® Cystatin C
Supporting the early detection of chronic kidney disease
With the cobas modular platform (cobas 4000 and 6000 analyzer series and cobas 8000 modular analyzer series) Roche has developed a platform concept based on a common architecture that delivers tailor-made solutions for diverse workload and testing requirements. The cobas modular platform is designed to reduce the complexity of laboratory operation and provide efficient and compatible solutions for network cooperation.

**Flexible and intelligent solutions**
- Multiple configurations with tailor-made solutions for higher efficiency and productivity
- Consolidation of clinical chemistry and immunochemistry with more than 200 parameters for cost and workflow improvements
- Future sustainability through easy adaptation to changing throughput and parameter needs
- Consistency of interaction with hardware, software and reagents for less training and more staff flexibility
- Consistency of patient results due to a universal reagent concept

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**cobas 8000 modular analyzer series**  
Large volume  
38 configurations

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**cobas 6000 analyzer series**  
Mid volume  
7 configurations

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**cobas 4000 analyzer series**  
Low volume  
3 configurations
Cystatin C is a novel serum marker for the diagnosis of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which is particularly useful for detection in the early stages. It is a small protein that can be used for estimating glomerular filtration rate (GFR), the best indicator of kidney function, due to its continuous production in most cells of the body and the fact that it is freely filtered and absorbed by the kidney. Any change in GFR, however small, is reflected by a change in the serum cystatin C level, and, for this reason, increases in cystatin C are detectable much earlier in the course of CKD when levels of creatinine are still in the normal range.1 This enables more timely diagnosis and initiation of treatment, allowing the optimal benefits of therapy for the patient to be realized. In addition, as cystatin C levels of the disease are independent of gender, muscle mass or other chronic illness, unlike creatinine levels, evidence suggests that cystatin C is a better marker for the early detection of impaired renal function; working together with creatinine for the detection of CKD across the disease continuum.

A significant burden on healthcare systems
Late detection of kidney disease is known to increase the risk of progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and/or development of CVD.1 Treating ESRD with dialysis or kidney transplantation is very costly, and development of comorbidities such as CVD increase the financial burden still further2 (Figure 1). In the USA, the annual cost of CKD is estimated to be $52–122 billion,3 70% of which is due to the presence of comorbidities. Furthermore, the later CKD is diagnosed, the more chance there is of missing the critical early window for therapeutic intervention that can delay, or even prevent, further damage.

The importance of early detection
Early intervention in patients with CKD has the potential to delay, or even prevent, the development of ESRD and complications,4 leading to a marked impact on life expectancy, quality of life and social burden. In the USA, early intervention has been shown to reduce treatment costs by as much as 70%5 (Figure 1), and cost savings have also been shown in the UK and Germany.6,7

![Figure 1: Early intervention reduces the cost of treating CKD](image-url)
Chronic kidney disease

**Diagnosis and classification**

Chronic kidney disease is defined as a decreased level of kidney function and/or the presence of kidney damage for longer than 3 months,
however, it is often characterized clinically by a progressive loss in renal function over a period of months or years. Physical symptoms of CKD are non-specific, such as reduced appetite and feeling unwell, which means that it is often not diagnosed unless the patient develops an associated complication such as CVD. Guidelines recommend that individuals with associated risk factors, including diabetes, hypertension or a familial link to CKD, should be screened regularly as making the diagnosis early in the disease course allows therapy to be initiated before more severe damage occurs and the therapeutic window is missed.

Kidney function is assessed clinically by determining the glomerular filtration rate, or GFR. This is a measure of the volume of liquid filtered from the blood by the kidneys each minute, standardized for the average body surface area of 1.73 m². GFR is calculated by quantifying the clearance of chemicals that have steady levels in the blood and are renally filtered, but not renally absorbed or secreted. In a clinical setting, GFR is usually estimated (eGFR) using measurements of endogenous substances, such as creatinine or cystatin C. Decreasing GFR is known to correlate with the pathologic severity of kidney disease and, in most cases, GFR declines progressively over time leading to complications such as hypertension and CVD. As such, GFR can be used both to help diagnose and classify CKD. However, GFR alone is often not sufficient to provide a diagnosis of CKD as the definition also includes the presence of kidney damage. Kidney damage is detected by measuring the amount of protein in the urine: in a healthy individual the protein level is very low, however it increases when the kidney is damaged.

Individuals with kidney damage for more than 3 months, with or without reduced GFR, or with a GFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m² for more than 3 months in the presence or absence of kidney damage are considered to have CKD. CKD is further classified according to the reduction of kidney function, as shown in Table 1.

Stages 1–2 represent mild kidney disease, stages 3–4 represent more severe kidney disease, and stage 5 represents ESRD which requires Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT; dialysis or kidney transplantation). However, patients do not always progress from stage 1 to stage 5. Very rapid progression to kidney failure is indicative of acute kidney failure, often occurring due to injury or infection for example. This is usually reversible, although dialysis may be required for a short time.

**Monitoring**

Kidney function should be monitored in all patients with CKD and those considered at risk of developing the condition so that any changes can be identified early and managed accordingly. Timely diagnosis requires a test that accurately detects the subtle changes in kidney function observed in the early stages of the disease.

Determining creatinine clearance (CrCl) and estimating GFR using serum creatinine levels are the current mainstays for the clinical assessment of kidney function today. However, there is growing interest in using cystatin C as a marker for CKD because it offers several advantages over creatinine.

**Limitations of creatinine**

While creatinine has been widely used to date to assess renal function, it is subject to variation due to a number of factors including age, gender, race, chronic illness, diet, and muscle mass (Table 2).
As a result, CrCl and serum creatinine measurements show a relatively low diagnostic sensitivity and specificity compared with cystatin C (levels of which are much less influenced by these factors) for early diagnosis of CKD\(^1\) (stages 1 and 2; Figure 2).

The inability of creatinine to detect mild kidney insufficiency (stages 1 and 2) is due to the fact that serum creatinine levels only begin to rise above the normal value when approximately 50% of renal function is already lost;\(^1\) this is known as the creatinine-blind area (Figure 3). Using creatinine alone as the diagnostic test for kidney disease means that many patients with stage 1 or stage 2 may go undetected and the important early therapeutic window may be missed (Figure 4).\(^{13-15}\)

So, although creatinine is a good marker for detecting stages 3–5 of CKD, it is not useful in patients in the early stages of CKD due to the creatinine-blind area (Figure 3). An additional diagnostic method, such as cystatin C, would be extremely valuable to use alongside creatinine to cover patients in the early stages of CKD.
**Tina-quant® Cystatin C**

**A new marker with higher medical value compared with creatinine**

The early stages of CKD are characterized by subtle reductions in GFR that creatinine-based measurements are not able to detect. In contrast, these small GFR changes are reflected in altered levels of serum cystatin C, allowing earlier detection and diagnosis. Furthermore, as there is no variation in cystatin C due to gender, muscle mass or inflammation, it shows superior performance as a marker compared with creatinine in children with renal disease, the elderly, diabetic patients, transplant patients and cancer patients (independent of the presence of metastases or chemotherapy).

The enhanced detection of early CKD (stages 1 and 2) using cystatin C allows physicians to provide patients with a much improved prognosis. The aim of therapy is to slow disease progression to stage 5 (ESRD), and the sooner treatment is initiated, the greater the benefit. The early detection and initiation of therapy afforded by using cystatin C as a marker for CKD has been shown to prolong ESRD-free survival for up to 2 years compared with treatment following creatinine-based detection, and up to 4 years compared with no treatment\(^\text{26,27}\) (Figure 5).

Once a patient reaches stage 5, treatment options are limited to dialysis or transplantation, both of which are associated with poor outcomes for the patient and are extremely costly. In addition, as CKD is associated with an increased risk of CVD and other risk factors for heart disease (e.g., hyperlipidemia), patients are more likely to suffer from comorbidities at more advanced stages of CKD.\(^\text{28}\) By detecting CKD earlier using cystatin C, disease progression can be delayed and even prevented, to provide patients with a longer life free of kidney failure.

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**Early detection of CKD using cystatin C allows early therapeutic intervention and can delay ESRD by up to 2 years compared with creatinine-based detection\(^\text{26,27}\)**

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**Figure 5:** Cystatin C is the marker of choice for early detection of CKD (stages 1 and 2), contributing to improved patient outcome\(^\text{26,27}\)
Conclusion

The Tina-quant® Cystatin C assay is valuable for the early detection of CKD

Chronic kidney disease can be treated more effectively if detected early enough, leading to improved patient outcomes and a significantly diminished economic burden worldwide.

The Roche cobas® diagnostic markers portfolio contains both cystatin C and creatinine as markers for CKD, to allow detection across all 5 stages of CKD (Figure 6). The inclusion of the Tina-quant Cystatin C assay allows the critical early detection of CKD.

Get excellent medical value

• Tina-quant Cystatin C is the assay of choice for early detection when creatinine is still in the normal range – offering patients a longer life without kidney failure

• Tina-quant Cystatin C is not influenced by gender, muscle mass or inflammation

• Tina-quant Cystatin C, together with creatinine measurement, provides detection of CKD across the complete range of renal function

Figure 6: Cystatin C combined with creatinine detects all stages of CKD
Potential clinical uses for Tina-quant® Cystatin C

GFR estimation in mild renal impairment
• Creatinine and modification of diet in renal disease (MDRD) are of limited use when the GFR is 60–90 mL/min because of the creatinine-blind area\(^13,14\).
• Cystatin C permits earlier recognition of chronic renal impairment in high-risk populations (e.g. patients with diabetes, hypertension)\(^8,22\).
• Early detection permits earlier therapeutic intervention when GFR is only mildly impaired.

GFR measurement before and after contrast administration
• Accurate renal function testing is essential both before and after contrast administration to avoid contrast-induced nephropathy\(^29\).
• A cystatin C increase of <10% at 24 hours after contrast administration excludes contrast-induced nephropathy; an increase of >10% at 24 hours after administration is an independent predictor of major adverse events at 1 year after treatment\(^29\).
• High-risk populations can be classified more exactly, and prophylactic therapeutic measures better controlled, with cystatin C.

Monitoring of drug dosage
• In the case of drugs whose dosage depends on renal function, more accurate estimation of renal function with cystatin C allows more accurate adjustment of dosages, thus avoiding major side effects\(^32,33\).
• It also permits earlier and more exact detection of kidney damage due to nephrotoxic drugs\(^34,35\).

GFR measurement in renal transplant recipients
• Transplant nephropathy requires early and reliable detection. In this patient population, cystatin C identifies renal impairment with high certainty, thereby contributing to improved management of renal transplant recipients\(^36\).

Renal function testing in children and the elderly
• In adults, the Cockcroft-Gault and MDRD equations are recommended for eGFR calculated from creatinine measurements; however in patients <18 and >70 years the Schwartz and Counahan-Barratt equations are recommended\(^8\).
• With its constant rate of synthesis, cystatin C permits more reliable and exact estimation of GFR in children and the elderly where the relationship between cystatin C and GFR is more complex\(^30,31\).
• This avoids use of time-consuming methods such as 24-hour urine collection.
Renal function testing using Tina-quant®
Cystatin C provides excellent medical value for your laboratory

- Cystatin C is a more reliable, early marker of renal dysfunction, compared with creatinine.11
- Adverse outcomes of renal failure can be prevented or delayed through early detection and treatment.37-42
- Cystatin C concentration is not influenced by inflammation, muscle mass, gender, or age.9
- Cystatin C is a better indicator of mild changes in GFR; at which stage creatinine values are still within the normal range.19
- Cystatin C as a measure of renal function enhances the early detection, prevention, and treatment of diabetic kidney damage.22
- Cystatin C exhibits superior diagnostic accuracy for decreased GFR compared with that of creatinine in children under 3 years old with renal disease.18
- Constant production of cystatin C makes it an ideal marker of GFR, especially in patients with reduced muscle mass or conditions that produce rapid change in muscle mass.43,44
- Cystatin C is a superior marker of early stages of renal impairment in the elderly population.45
- Cystatin C is the preferred method for testing renal function in certain patient groups, such as patients with diabetes and the critically ill.21
- Cystatin C is superior to creatinine for assessing GFR in patients with cancer.25
Glossary and abbreviations

**Chronic kidney disease** – decreased kidney function and/or kidney damage for a continuous period of 3 months

**Glomerular filtration rate** – the rate of fluid filtration from the blood into the kidneys

**Estimated GFR** – calculation of GFR using the concentration of an endogenous substance, such as creatinine or cystatin C, which is freely filtered by the kidneys

**End-stage renal disease** – renal failure, treated by dialysis or kidney transplantation

**CKD**  chronic kidney disease

**CrCl**  creatinine clearance

**CVD**  cardiovascular disease

**ESRD**  end-stage renal disease

**GFR**  glomerular filtration rate

**eGFR**  estimated GFR

**RRT**  renal replacement therapy
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