

NBA = Net Bilirubin Absorbance
 NOA = Net Oxyhaemoglobin Absorbance
 SAH = Subarachnoid haemorrhage

(i) LP should be >12 hours and <14 days after event
 (ii) Indicate time of event and LP with request
 (iii) Take sample for spectrophotometry as last fraction
 (iv) Protect sample from light
 (v) Deliver to lab asap, ideally by hand

(i) Baseline to connect minima at 350-400nm and 430-530 nm
 (ii) NBA defined as absorbance at 476nm
 (iii) NOA defined as absorbance at OHb peak, maximum between 410-418nm

(i) Centrifuge and remove supernatant
 (ii) It is preferable to analyse the sample immediately. If this is not possible, store the supernatant in the dark at 4°C.

Absence of an OHb peak could mean bilirubin is coming from plasma

If CSF total protein is >1g/L, there is an increased likelihood that a high NBA is caused by protein bound bilirubin

Be aware that a high NBA can also be seen in:

- Meningitis
- Malignancy
- Viral Infections
- Sub-dural Haemorrhage
- Superficial Siderosis
- Neonates

Always interpret results in their clinical context

UK NEQAS for CSF Haem Pigments Interpretation

