



Hair Mineral Analysis

Summary At A Glance

Essential Mineral Deficiency

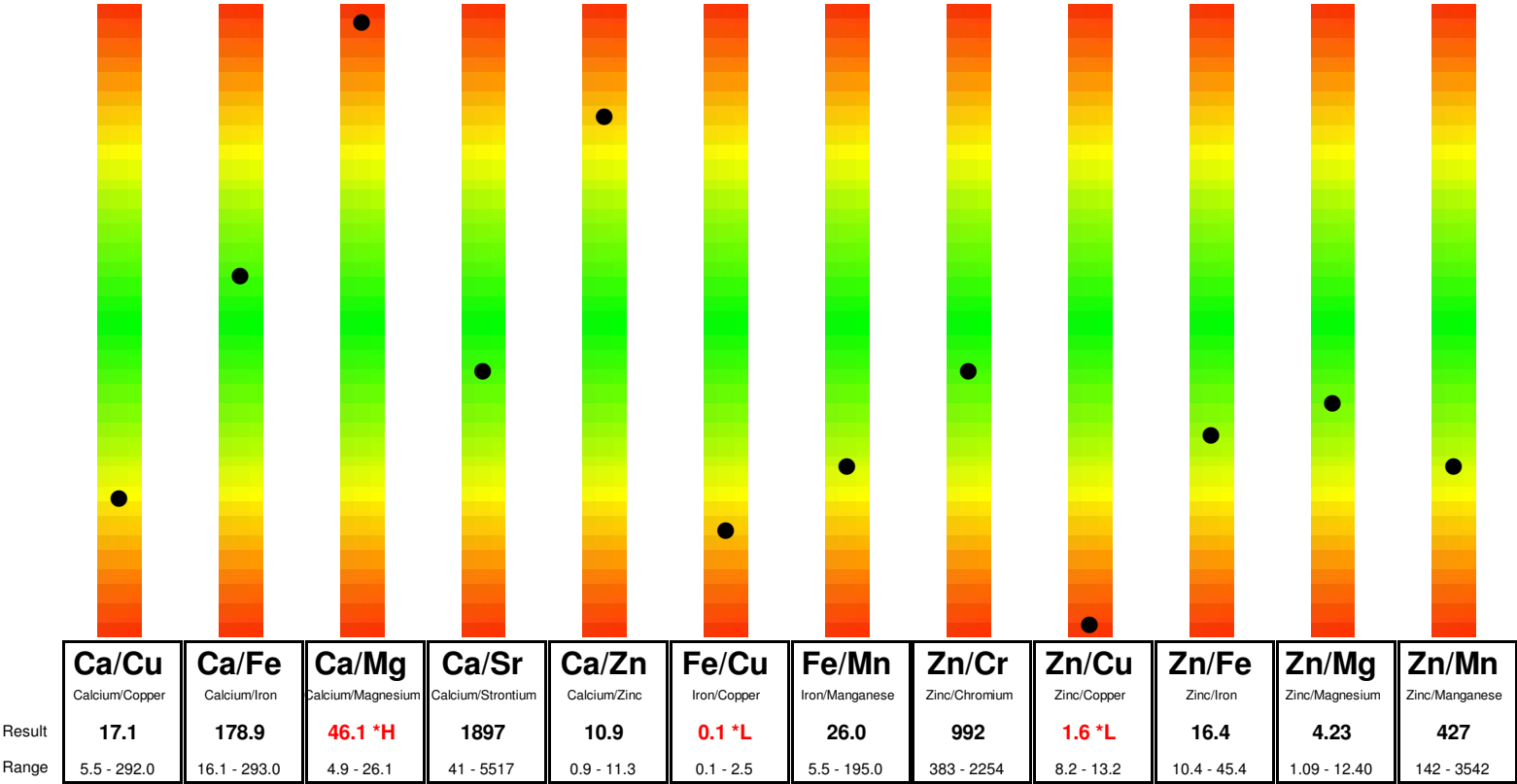
Zinc

Essential Mineral Excess

Copper

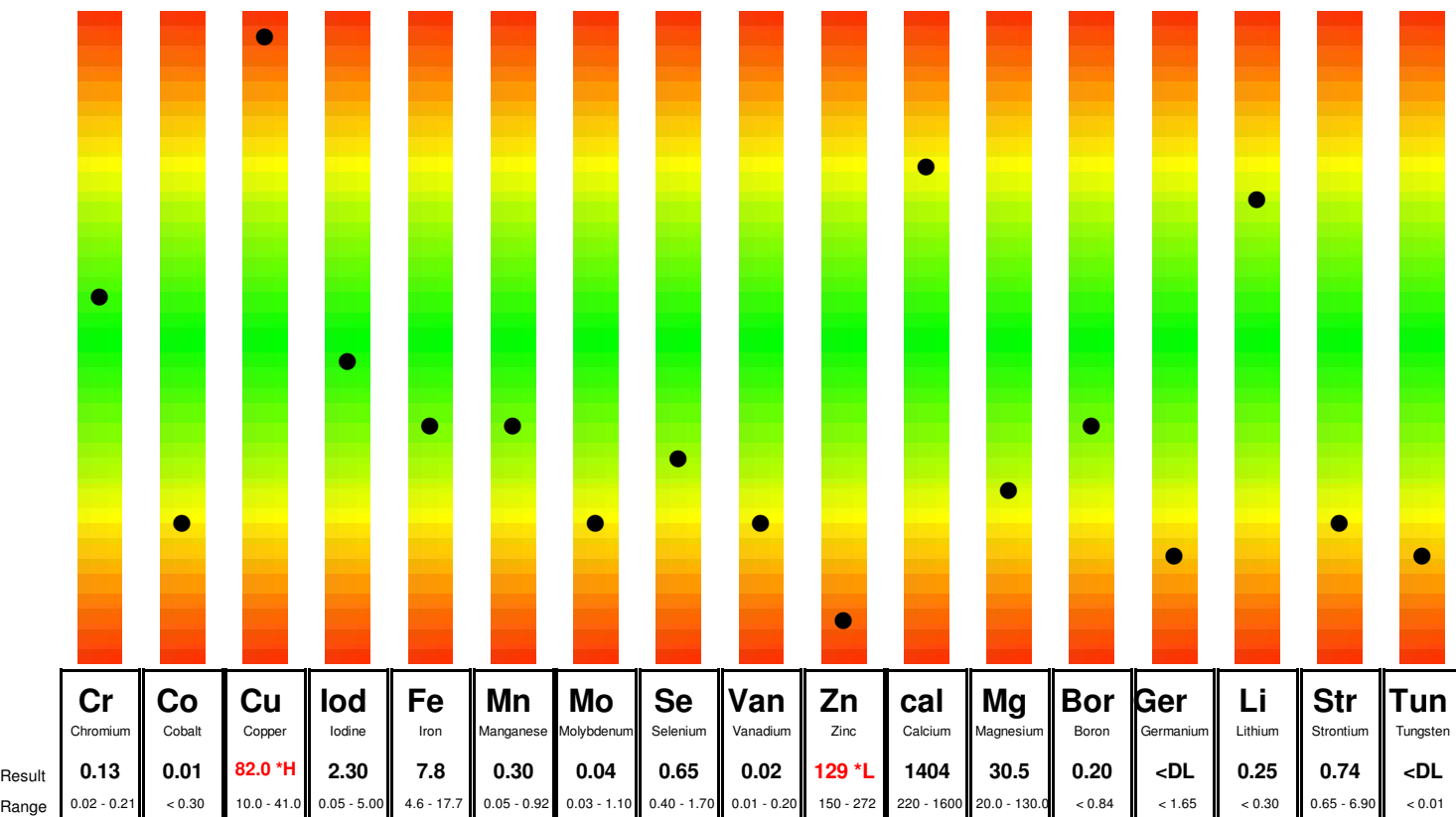
Toxic Elements

Essential Mineral Ratios

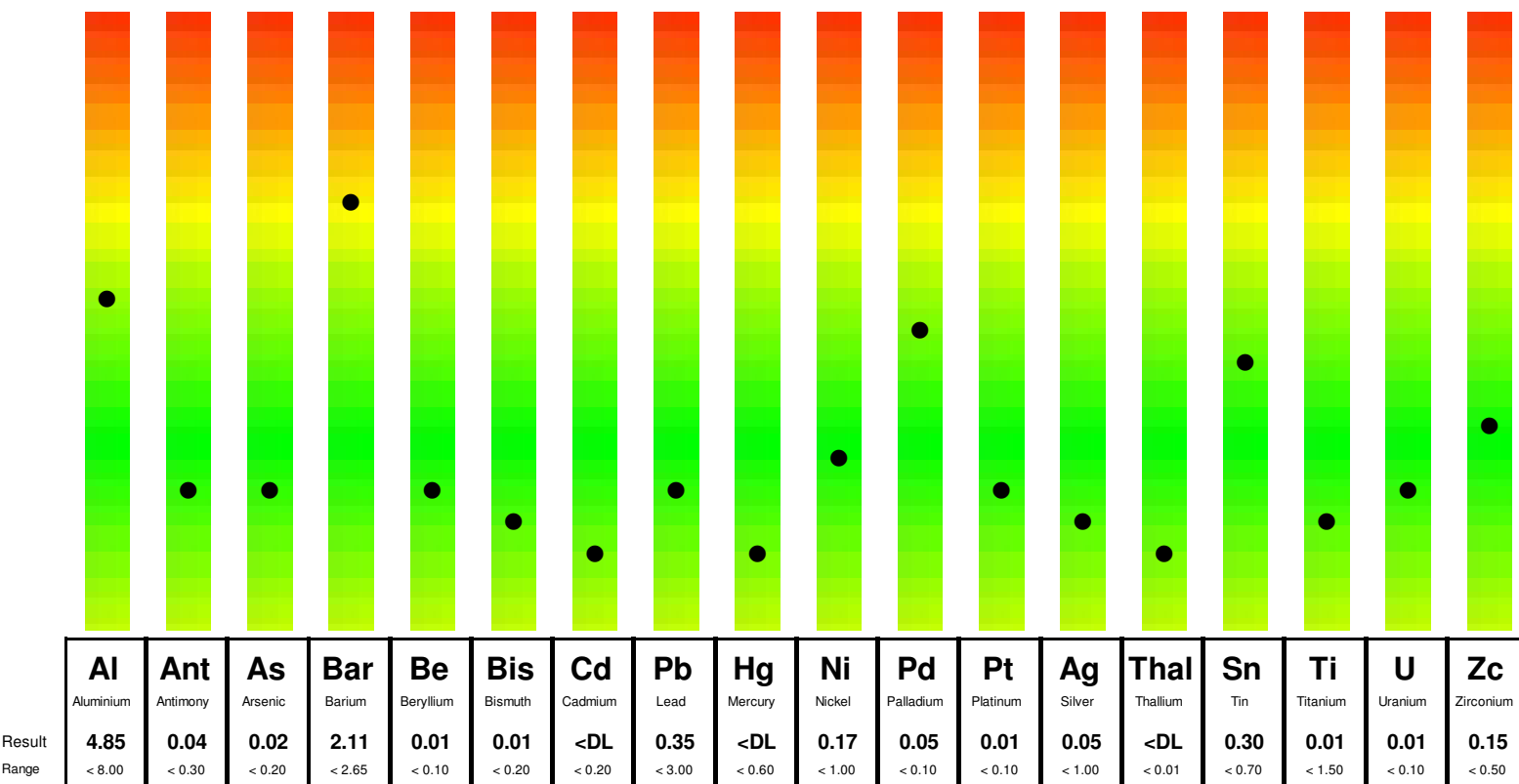




## Essential Minerals



## Toxic Elements





## Laboratory Comments

### LOW COBALT LEVEL:

Cobalt is part of the Vitamin B12 molecule and is necessary for Vitamin B12 activity and function. Cobalt, which is mainly stored in the liver, activates numerous enzymes, and is excreted in bile. A low dietary intake inhibits foetal development and may reflect a low intake of Vitamin B12.

#### Sources:

All animal products, including all meats, fish, cheese, brewer's yeast and yeast extracts. Strict vegetarians (vegans) and those who lack intrinsic factor risk vitamin B12 and cobalt deficiency.

#### Symptoms:

Include pernicious anaemia.

#### Therapeutic Consideration:

Increase vitamin B12 intake and/or consumption of cobalt-rich foods.

### ELEVATED COPPER LEVEL:

Unbound copper is known to be an even more reactive prooxidant than iron, especially in the presence of strong reducing agents such as ascorbate or homocysteine. High levels of copper can induce oxidative damage. Small amounts are required for CuZnSOD and ceruloplasmin.

Toxic levels cause nausea, behaviour problems, vomiting and diarrhoea (250mg CuSO<sub>4</sub>).

Elevated levels of copper often reflect exposure to swimming pool water treated with algicide. Occasionally, elevated copper occurs from hair treatments, perm, dye, or bleach. If these conditions do not apply to your patient, then look for possible sources of copper in the environment that may be causing the elevated level.

### LOW/LOW NORMAL MOLYBDENUM LEVEL:

Deficiency has been linked to gout. Low levels in heavy meat eaters reflect digestive disorder, the need for digestive enzymes and dietary changes. Such patients should avoid pork, beef, whole grain and rather eat poultry, fish and other light proteins. Vegetarians should either add some meat to their diet or take molybdenum chelate with B-vitamins, which aid the absorption of molybdenum. Dietary molybdenum is readily absorbed by the intestine and is excreted in the urine and bile.

#### Sources:

Whole grains, legumes, leafy vegetables and organ meats. The recommended daily intake is 0,15-0,5 mg/day, depending on age and status. Acute deficiency symptoms are unknown in humans. Excess intake of copper, zinc, and sulfates can depress Mo-update, causing disturbances in the uric acid cycle. Low molybdenum levels have been associated with impotency, increased cancer susceptibility, gout, dental caries, defects in the metabolism of sulfur-containing amino acids, and asthma.

### LOW/LOW NORMAL ZINC LEVEL:

Deficiency may result in poor wound healing, poor sense of smell and taste, hypochlorhydria, night blindness, and immune dysfunction. Pregnant women, cancer and burn patients are at high risk for zinc deficiency, causing fatigue, poor growth, menstrual problem and sexual maturity problems. Deficiency causes are malnutrition and malabsorption. Zinc is necessary for spermatogenesis, protein synthesis and degradation, haeme synthesis, CO<sub>2</sub> transport, metabolism, RNA polymerases and the cytosol component of SOD. Because it has a fixed outer electron valence of +2 it can inhibit many iron based free radical reactions by displacing iron from its binding site. Zinc can also be toxic at high levels.

#### Sources:

Meats, crustaceans, nuts, seeds, leafy and root vegetables.

#### Therapeutic Considerations:

Recommended Daily Intake: 15mg, however keep in mind that only 20-30% of zinc ingested is absorbed, therefore suggest doses of 50mg/day and Vitamin B6 is needed for utilization.

Competition with Calcium, Iron and Copper can significantly impair absorption, as can high phytate foods and folic acid supplementation.

### LOW/LOW NORMAL MAGNESIUM LEVEL:

Low hair magnesium has been linked with hypoglycemia, and in certain circumstances schizophrenia, depression, hypertension and increased cardiac risk. Deficiency results in muscle weakness/spasm.

Magnesium is necessary for RNA/DNA synthesis, protein synthesis, ATP synthesis via both glycolysis and Krebs Cycle, muscle contraction and nerve conduction, and cAMP production.

Because it has a fixed outer electron valence of +2 it can inhibit many iron based free radical generating reactions by



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**3917430**

displacing iron from its binding site. Magnesium has been shown to be helpful in preventing heart disease.

Therapeutic Considerations:

Recommended Daily Intake: 400mg. About 30-60% of dietary forms are absorbed via small intestine. Stool fats decrease absorption, as do phytate and fibre. Vitamin D mildly increases absorption. Taurine deficiency causes urinary wasting.