

## **Thyroid Check Plus rT3**

This profile includes everything in our popular Thyroid Check Plus (TSH, T4, FT4, FT3, TgAb and TPOAb) as well as Reverse T3.

This test is our most comprehensive test for thyroid function. As well as thyroid antibodies to investigate possible autoimmune disease (the major cause of thyroid disease) it includes thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), thyroxine (T4), free thyroxine (FT4) and free triiodothyronine (FT3). T3 is the most potent thyroid hormone and is the one which is active in governing metabolism in our cells.

T4 converts to T3 by the removal of an atom of iodine. In times of stress, for example during illness or starvation, a different atom of iodine is removed instead, creating Reverse T3 (rT3). This is thought to be the body's attempt to preserve energy for growth and repair. When rT3 is taken up by the body's cells it can block the action of T3 therefore slowing your metabolism. As a result your thyroid hormone levels can be normal, but because T3 can't get into your cells, you suffer from hypothyroid symptoms.

### **Who is this blood test for?**

This test is for individuals who want a very thorough examination of their thyroid function. They may already have had some basic thyroid function tests performed and now wish to get a more detailed picture.

### **What is tested?**

TSH, FT4, T4, FT3, RT3, RT3 ratio  
Thyroid Antibodies: TgAb, TPOAb