Clinical Background
Chromogranin A (CGA) is the major protein within the catecholamine storage vesicles (chromaffin granules) of the adrenal medulla. When catecholamines are released by exocytosis from normal adrenal medulla or pheochromocytoma cells, all vesicle contents are co-released, including CGA. CGA has also been shown to be co-released with polypeptide hormones from the following endocrine tissues: pancreatic islet cells, enteroendocrine cells, parathyroid chief cells, thyroid parafollicular C cells, and anterior pituitary cells. CGA concentrations may be elevated in patients with various endocrine neoplasms, eg, anterior pituitary adenoma, parathyroid adenoma, medullary thyroid carcinoma, carcinoid tumor, and pancreatic islet cell tumor. In contrast, patients with non-endocrine neoplasia or benign endocrine disease have normal plasma CGA concentrations. Serum CGA also has been reported to be elevated in patients with small cell lung carcinoma.

Method
• Immunochemiluminometric assay (ICMA)
• Analytical sensitivity: 1.5 ng/mL

Specimen Requirements
0.8 mL refrigerated serum (no additive red top tube); 0.3 mL minimum
SST red top unacceptable