

## CLINICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### INTRINSIC FACTOR

**Function:**

Intrinsic factor is a glycoprotein produced by the parietal cells of the stomach. It is necessary for the absorption of vitamin B12 within distal ileum

**Antibodies Appear:**

Autoimmune Gastritis<sup>3,4</sup>  
 Pernicious Anemia<sup>1,3,4</sup>

**Known Cross-Reactions:**
**Clinical Significance:**

Autoantibodies against Intrinsic Factor are considered highly specific to patients with Pernicious Anemia.<sup>2</sup> Intrinsic Factor antibodies are rarely found in the absence of Pernicious Anemia.<sup>1</sup> Less commonly, Intrinsic Factor antibodies may also be found in patients with Graves' disease and in relatives of patients with Pernicious Anemia.<sup>4</sup>

**References:**

1. Annabale, et al. Lack of specific association between gastric autoimmunity hallmarks and clinical presentations of atrophic body gastritis. *World J Gastroenterol*, 2005; 11(34):5351-5357.
2. Camel. How I treat cobalamin (vitamin B12) deficiency. *Blood*, 2008; 112(6):2214-2221.
3. Goldkorn, et al. Gastric parietal cell antigens of 60-90, 92 and 100-120kDa associated with autoimmune gastritis and pernicious anemia. Role of N-glycans in the structure and antigenicity of the 60-90-kDa component. *J Biol Chem*, 1989; 264(31):187668-18774.
4. James, et al. Cell-mediated immunity to intrinsic factor in autoimmune disorders. *Br Med J*, 1974; 4:494-496.