

Beyond "Normal": Understanding Your Labs for Optimal Health

Why "Normal" Isn't Always "Healthy"

Have you ever been told your blood work is "perfect," yet you still feel tired, foggy, or just "off"? Standard lab ranges are designed to find a disease that is already there. Functional ranges are different—they are narrower and designed to find the "sweet spot" where your body functions at its best.

Think of it like a fire alarm: standard labs go off when the house is on fire. Functional ranges look for the smoke so we can put it out before the fire even starts.

Why This Matters For You

- **Validation:** It explains why you feel symptoms even when you've been told "everything is fine."
- **Early Warning:** We can see trends moving in the wrong direction years before they become a medical problem.
- **Targeted Care:** Instead of guessing, we use your unique "internal map" to choose the right foods and habits for your body.
- **Better Energy:** By moving your numbers into the "Optimal Zone," we help your body produce more energy and focus.

The "Optimal Zone" vs. The "Normal Range"

Here are a few common markers where the "Healthy Zone" is much smaller than what the lab shows:

Marker	Lab "Normal"	Your "Optimal Zone"	Why it Matters
Blood Sugar	65 – 99	75 – 86	High-normal can cause "crashes" and weight gain.
Thyroid (TSH)	0.4 – 4.5	1.0 – 2.0	Even a 3.0 can make you feel sluggish and cold.

Marker	Lab "Normal"	Your "Optimal Zone"	Why it Matters
Iron (Ferritin)	15 – 150	50 – 100	Too low causes hair thinning; too high means inflammation.
Vitamin B Clues	80 – 100	82 – 92	This looks at cell size to see if you need more B-vitamins.

What You Can Do Today

1. **Gather Your History:** Collect your lab results from the last 1–2 years. Look for numbers that are at the very high or very low end of the "normal" box.
2. **Connect the Dots:** Notice if your "high-normal" blood sugar matches the times of day you feel a "brain fog" or energy crash.
3. **Focus on the Basics:** If your markers show signs of stress or inflammation, prioritize 7–8 hours of sleep and extra hydration this week to support your system.

Questions to Discuss with Your Practitioner

- "Which of my markers are in the 'normal' range but moving away from 'optimal'?"
- "Based on my labs, am I showing signs of hidden stress or inflammation?"
- "What is the #1 shift I can make in my diet to improve these specific numbers?"
- "Are my 'normal' levels the reason I'm still feeling [symptom]?"

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