

Glucagon Stimulation Test

Information for patients

The test is to assess your production of cortisol and/or growth hormone.

What do I need to do before the test?

- You must have nothing to eat from midnight the night before your test. You may drink plain water freely.
- If you take steroids (hydrocortisone or dexamethasone) please do not take any after your lunch time dose the day before your test.
- If you are having a course of radiotherapy please let us know so that we can re-arrange the test for when you have completed your treatment.



What does the test involve?

- A blood sample will be taken and you will then be given an injection of glucagon. The glucagon acts as a stimulus to the pituitary gland and should cause cortisol and growth hormone to be released.
- Your blood will then be taken at intervals over the next three hours.
- After the last blood sample you will be free to go.

How long will the test take?

- The test will take approximately four hours to complete.

Side-effects

- Some people feel nauseous during the test but this will soon be resolved once you eat or drink.
- We do not have facilities to provide food and drink so bring something with you for during the day.
- The results of the test will be reviewed by your doctor and discussed with you at your next appointment.
- If you have any queries you can contact us on telephone: **0113 206 4937** or **0113 206 5730**
email: **leedsth-tr.endocrinologyadminsjuh@nhs.net**

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