

Levothyroxine Absorption Test

What is a levothyroxine absorption test?

This is a test ordered by your endocrinologist to identify if your body can sufficiently absorb thyroxine after it is administered orally.

How is the test performed?

An appointment will be scheduled for you to have the test performed. You will be provided with the location and arrival time. Please plan for at least 2.5 hours of testing.

An intravenous (IV) cannula will be inserted into a vein in one of your arms and will remain there for the duration of the test. All of your blood samples will be drawn through this catheter, so you will not require any further needle pokes. Once the first blood tests are obtained, the nurse will administer levothyroxine for you to take with a glass of water.

After the medication is taken, the nurse will withdraw blood samples from the IV line every 30 minutes for 1-2 hours, according to the directions from your endocrinologist. Once this is completed, the IV line will be removed and you will be able to go home.

Are there any risks or side effects to this test?

As with any blood test or IV insertion, you may have some bruising or redness at the site where the catheter was inserted. There is also a very small risk of infection.

How do I prepare for the test?

You will need to fast (no food or drinks other than water) after midnight the night before your test. Please DO drink water the morning of the test. You can bring a snack to eat once the test is completed.

DO NOT TAKE ANY MEDICATION ON THE MORNING OF YOUR TEST

Please DO NOT take your levothyroxine for 24 hours prior to your test. Bring your daily dose of all other medications to the appointment to take approximately 2 hours AFTER your test begins.

What should I do if I need to cancel?

If you need to cancel your appointment, please call 519 646-6000 ext. 64424 and state your name and test date. It's important to know that there may be a delay in rescheduling your appointment as the availability of test times are limited. If you need to cancel, we ask that you call as soon as possible.

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