

Glucagon Stimulation test for Cortisol and Growth Hormone Deficiency

What is a glucagon stimulation test for cortisol and growth hormone deficiency?

This is a test ordered by your endocrinologist to check (or confirm) if your body is producing enough cortisol and growth hormone.

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 3 1/2 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. The nurse will administer an intramuscular injection.

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.

Common side effects of glucagon include temporary changes in blood pressure, increase in heart rate, nausea, vomiting and low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).

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How do I prepare for the test?

You will need to fast (no food or drinks other than water) after 10:00 pm the night before your test. Please DO drink water the morning of the test.

Your doctor will advise you to stop all glucocorticoids, including inhaled, for 48 hours before the test.

DO NOT STOP ANY MEDICATION UNLESS INDICATED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Bring your daily dose of medications to the appointment in case appointment takes longer than expected.

You can bring a snack to eat once the test is completed.

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.