

Synacthen Stimulation Test (1 of 1)

Synacthen is a medicine that causes the adrenal gland to secrete cortisol (a steroid hormone). During the test, a synthetic form of a naturally occurring hormone will be given to you. Blood samples will then be collected to measure how your adrenal glands are working.

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| Preparation | There is usually no preparation for this test. You will be told if you are not to eat or drink, or if you are to stop taking any medications before the test. |
| Procedure | You may be asked to arrive 1 hour before the test starts so that a heparin lock can be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. (The heparin lock is a device that is inserted into a vein in your hand or arm and allows repeated blood samples to be taken without repeated needles in your veins). Adreno-cortico-trophic hormone (ACTH for short) will also be given through the heparin lock. After the hormone is given, it will travel through the bloodstream and cause the adrenal glands to secrete cortisol and other hormones. At intervals during the test, blood samples will be taken to measure these hormones. The procedure lasts at least 1 hour. |
| Side-Effects | Patients usually feel no side effects or other sensations from this test. There is a risk of anaphylaxis (an allergic reaction), but this is very rare. |
| After the Procedure | After the last blood sample is taken, and if no other blood tests are needed, the heparin lock will be removed. You may then resume your usual activities and go home. |

If you need this information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0800 374 208 email: palservice@salisbury.nhs.uk
You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital

We ask for information about you so that you can receive proper care and treatment. This information remains confidential and is stored securely by the Trust in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

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