Parent and patient information

What is Hormone Testing?

Educational Material produced by the Sharing Best Practice in Endocrinology group supported by Merck Serono
Hormone Testing

What Is Hormone Testing?

Your child is attending for a hormone test. This is one of three tests.

1. The thyroid-releasing hormone (TRH) stimulation test; this tests the thyroid gland.

2. The adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) stimulation test; this tests the adrenal gland.

3. The luteinising hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) stimulation test; this shows your child’s stage in puberty.

Before The Test

Please ensure that you tell the nurse and doctor if your child has any other condition, any allergies, or is on any other medication.

- Please bring your child to

  at am.

- Please call if you are unable to attend for this appointment.

- Your child can eat and drink as normal.

- Please bring along a toy, game, pushchair, etc. to ensure your child is comfortable and occupied throughout the test.

- The test takes approximately two hours.
What Does The Test Involve?

When you arrive the nurse or doctor will explain what the test involves in more detail. You will then need to sign a consent form before the test can begin. You can stay with your child throughout the test.

The doctor or nurse will use a spray or cream to numb an area of your child’s hand or arm. When the area is numb, a small plastic tube (cannula) is inserted into your child’s vein in order to take the blood samples for the test.

The test starts when the cannula is inserted and remains there until the end of the test. After the first blood sample is taken, a small dose of the hormone being tested is given through the cannula. The nurse will take frequent blood samples. When the test is completed, the nurse will remove the cannula and you and your child can go home.

Sometimes your child may feel a little bit sick at the start of the TRH test.
After The Test

Make sure you have an appointment to come back and see the doctor.

An endocrine nurse and doctor will review the results of the test before your child’s next appointment. If you have any concerns or any further questions please contact the endocrine department on:

Tel,

If you have any further questions regarding hormone testing please contact your local healthcare professional.

OPEN-I incorporates the paediatric endocrine nurses from The National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin, Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin, The Children’s University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin, and Cork University Hospital.