SydPath
ST VINCENT'S PATHOLOGY

www.sydpath.com.au

SHORT SYNACTHEN TEST COLLECTION

BACKGROUND TO THE TEST: The Short Synacthen Test is used for the diagnosis of reduced adrenal gland function. The principle of the test is to stimulate the adrenal gland with a synthetic hormone (Synacthen) to see how much cortisol is made in response. The test involves 3 blood tests and one injection and takes a little over an hour to perform. The results will be sent to your doctor within a couple of days of the test.

BOOKING: Tests are carried out at the SydPath rooms at Level 5 in St Vincent's Clinic (corner Victoria and Oxford Streets). The test can be booked by telephoning 8382-6590.

PREPARATION:

- No specific preparation is required for the test for most people. Fasting is not required for the Short Synacthen Test however if other blood is collected for other tests such as lipids or glucose then your doctor may request that you fast from midnight before the test.
- If you are receiving steroid medication, for example prednisone or cortisone, you will be asked to miss any morning dose you may normally take.
- Prior to the test you will be asked about any previous Synacthen tests you may have had and whether you had any reaction to the test. You will also be asked about medications and previous allergic reactions.
- If you have had a previous reaction to Synacthen the test will not be performed.
- Please bring your request form to the Clinic.

TEST PROCEDURE:

- The test is normally performed starting between 8 and 10 in the morning.
- You will be asked to sit comfortably, and a baseline blood sample will be taken.
- You will then be given a small injection into the shoulder muscle containing Synacthen.
- Further blood samples will be taken at 30 and 60 minutes after the injection.
- You may wish to bring a book or magazine to help pass the time.
- You may leave immediately after the test and no after-effects are expected.

ADVERSE EFFECTS: Allergic reactions to Synacthen can occur very occasionally and may be severe. The test will not be performed if there is thought to be a significant risk of any allergic reaction. Minor reactions to the injection such as local discomfort or feeling faint can occur. There will be a doctor supervising the test to ensure patient safety.

Enquiries: SydPath: 8382-6590. Laboratory: 8382-9100.

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