

With any medical test it is important that other factors do not interfere with your test result. Please read and follow these instructions carefully.

Your doctor has decided that your adrenal glands may not be functioning properly. This is best assessed by the Short Synacthen Test, which measures the ability of your adrenal glands to produce cortisol when stimulated by ACTH (synacthen).

Corticosteroids (e.g. Prednisolone, Hydrocortisone, Cortisone acetate), spironolactone and oestrogens may affect the results of a short synacthen test. It is recommended to discuss with your requesting doctor if you are taking any of these medications.

Allergy

In very rare instances an allergic reaction to the injection can occur in patients with a history of asthma or allergy. You should not have the Short Synacthen Test if you are allergic to synacthen or ACTH.

Arranging your test

This test is conducted in the morning and only at selected SA Pathology Patient Centres.

Please contact SA Pathology on 8222 3000 to book your test.

1. An appointment is required.
2. You do not need to fast for this test.
3. Please notify staff if you are asthmatic or have allergies.

Having your test

The test should be performed 24 hours after the last dose of corticosteroid unless specifically recommended by your doctor.

1. A baseline blood sample will be taken to measure your cortisol level.
2. You will then be given an injection of synacthen and further blood samples will be taken 30 and 60 minutes later.
3. You will be required to remain at the Patient Centre for the duration of the test, approx. 1 hour.

Your results

Your doctor will advise you when results are available.

Appointment details

Please make an appointment for your test.

To book call SA Pathology on 8222 3000.

Date _____

Time _____

Patient Centres

For Patient Centre locations and latest opening hours visit our website www.sapathology.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8222 3000.



This document has been reviewed and endorsed by SQCAG* for consumers and the community – October 2019.

*SA Health Safety and Quality Community Advisory Group