



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

ACTH STIMULATION TEST (COSYNTROPIN) PROTOCOL

1. This test must be scheduled in advance with the lab. Please call the Procurement department at ext 2401 to schedule.
2. ACTH Stimulation Testing:
The rapid ACTH stimulation test measures the acute adrenal response to ACTH and is used to diagnose both primary and secondary adrenal insufficiency. A synthetic human ^{oc 1-24} – ACTH called tetracosactin or cosyntropin (Cortrosyn) is used. It has full biologic potency and a lower incidence of allergic reactions than occurred with animal ACTH derivatives. Fasting is not required, and the test may be performed at any time of the day. A baseline cortisol sample is obtained; cosyntropin is administered in a dose of 0.25 mg intramuscularly or intravenously; and additional samples for plasma cortisol are obtained at 30 and 60 minutes following the injection.
3. The same phlebotomist should be involved with the collections beginning with the baseline cortisol. The cosyntropin is obtained from the pharmacy and administered by the patient's nurse/physician (inpatient) or medical day care (outpatient). The phlebotomist will note the time of injection and draw and label the samples at 30 minutes and 60 minutes after injection.
4. Test codes are:
 - CORB – Baseline
 - CORH – ½ hr. response
 - COR1 – 1 hr response
5. The unit should place a STAT order for a CORB in the HIS computer system. The order for the 30 min (CORH) and 60 min (COR1) post samples should be ordered STAT by the procurement department at the appropriate times post the phlebotomists collection of the CORB.