

A growth hormone test is performed to examine the secretion of growth hormone by the pituitary gland (a hormone secreting gland in the head).

Preparation

The paediatrician will consult you to determine when this test takes place. At the agreed time, you will report to the Paediatric Ward.

Starting from midnight, your child must fast until after the examination. This means that no food or drink can be consumed. It is a good idea to bring food for you and your child to eat once the examination is over.

Test

Once you and your child have reported to the Paediatric Ward, he/she will first be weighed. Depending on this weight, your child will receive a certain amount of a test substance via an IV or via tablets or a capsule.

An hour before the test, the nurse will place one or two bandages with anaesthetic cream on the possible sites for the insertion of the IV with drainage valve.

After removing these bandages, the paediatrician will insert a needle for the IV line with a valve for draining blood. Every 30 minutes, the nurse will draw blood from this valve.

After the first blood draw, within 30 minutes, the nurse will administer the test substance via the IV or via the tablets or capsule. During the test, your child will be on bed rest.

Every 30 minutes, the nurse will measure your child's blood pressure and heart rate. Depending on which growth hormone test is used, the child's blood sugar will also be measured, via a finger prick test.

Duration

The test will take 3 to 5 hours from the start of the test.

After the test

After the test, your child may eat and drink again as usual.

The results

You will get the test results when you visit the paediatrician at the outpatient clinic. You will need to schedule this appointment yourself.

Questions

If you have any questions about the growth hormone test, the nurses will be glad to provide you with more information. The phone number of the Paediatrics Outpatient Clinic is 020 – 755 7028.