

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Synacthen test

The aim of a synacthen test is to measure how well your adrenal glands are working using a synthetic medication called tetracosactide (synacthen). This medication should stimulate the production of a steroid hormone called cortisol from your adrenal glands.

What will happen on the day?

On arrival you will be welcomed by a member of the nursing staff and a blood sample will be obtained. Following this initial blood sample an injection of tetracosactide will be administered.

You will then be required to have a further blood sample taken 30 minutes after this injection. Some tests require a prolonged period of testing; your doctor or nurse will inform you if this applies.

Your results will be analysed and sent to your endocrine consultant.

Some medications may need to be stopped prior to the test being carried out. Please contact the department if you are:

- Pregnant.
- Taking any form of contraceptive pill or hormone replacement therapy.
- Currently prescribed any form of steroid medication including steroid inhalers or steroid creams.
- Have any allergies.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the department. We are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5.30pm:

- **Clinic 5** – 01623 622515, extension 6578.
- **Patient pathway coordinator** – 01623 622515, extension 6586.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202310-05-SYNT
Created: December 2016 / Revised: October 2023 /
Review Date: October 2025