

Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT)



Pathology / Blood Sciences

Path Links

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust



Introduction

You have been asked to undertake a Glucose Tolerance Test because your doctor wants to see whether you have abnormal blood sugar levels in your blood, which might indicate whether you have diabetes or not.

The results for your test will be sent to your requesting doctor when complete.

Procedure

1. You should be on your usual diet without carbohydrate restriction for at least three days prior to the test.
2. You are required to fast for at least 8 hours for this test. This is required to ensure that reliable results are obtained.
 - On the evening prior to your appointment **do not** have anything to eat **or** drink after around mid-night (N.B. Only small sips of water are allowed). Medication / tablets should be taken as normal. However, if you are pregnant and taking Gaviscon for heartburn please do not take any on the morning of the test as it affects the uptake of glucose (Rennies are acceptable, but in moderation)
 - On the day of your appointment go along to the relevant testing centre and if you were given a Pathology request form for the Glucose Tolerance test by your GP take that along with you. The test could take up to 2 hours to complete, so we would suggest you bring any reading materials with you to keep you occupied during the long wait between blood samples. Please bring a light snack with you for consumption when the test is ended. In some cases it may be possible to end the test within less than an hour, i.e. we may have all the necessary information at that time. This is the exception rather than the rule, but you may like to make provision in your transport arrangements to take account of this
3. Two or 3 blood samples will be collected (two venous by needle and one may be by finger prick).
4. Once the result of the first blood sample is known (this might be by finger prick or a blood sample taken from a vein in your arm depending on where you are having your test done), and usually within 10 -15 minutes, you will then be given a glucose drink (GlucosePro) which you should drink within 5 minutes (ideally). Note that if the result of the first (fasting) glucose is unequivocally high and indicative of diabetes, the test will be terminated and you will not have to take the glucose drink.
5. After this there is a 2 hour wait before the second venous blood test.
 - You should remain seated within the Unit Waiting area and must **NOT** eat, drink or smoke

6. After the second blood sample has been collected you will be able to leave the department.
- Failure to follow these instructions may cause invalid results or postponement of the test

Benefits

The benefit of doing the test is that it will provide your doctor with important results which will help with diagnosis and / or treatment.

Risks

Some patients do not like the taste of GlucosePro or be unable to drink it, in which case an alternative glucose solution, Polycal, can be used.

Alternatives

See previous page

If you have any queries please contact the requesting clinician.

Contact Details for Further Information

If you have any queries please ring your local laboratory:

Boston Tel. 01205 446386 Reception 0900-1730 (Mon-Fri)

Grantham Tel. 01476 565232 Ext 4706 Reception 0830-1700 (Mon-Fri)

Lincoln Tel. 01522 573754 Reception 0800-1700 (Mon-Fri)

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 01205 446243 (Boston), 01476 464861 (Grantham) and 01522 707071 (Lincoln). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@ulh.nhs.uk

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