



Clonidine Stimulation Test

You are scheduled to have a clonidine stimulation test. Clonidine is a medicine that causes the pituitary gland to secrete growth hormone. After taking the medicine, blood samples will be collected to measure how well your pituitary gland is working.

Preparation: The night before the test, do not eat, chew gum, or drink anything except water after midnight on the day of the test. You will be told if you are to stop taking any medications before the test.

Procedure: Before the test, a heparin lock will be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand. (The heparin lock will allow blood samples to be taken without repeated needle sticks.)

At the beginning of the test, you will be asked to swallow a tablet containing clonidine. Clonidine will be absorbed from your stomach and travel through the bloodstream to the brain. Once in the brain, it will cause the pituitary gland to secrete growth hormone. At intervals during the test, blood samples will be taken to measure growth hormone.

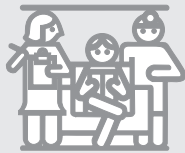
The test lasts about 2 hours.

After the Procedure: After the last blood sample, and if no other blood tests are needed, the heparin lock may be removed. You may have a snack.

Stay in bed until you are no longer drowsy and your blood pressure has returned to normal. Your nurse will monitor your blood pressure and let you know when it is normal. This may take as long as an hour. You may then resume your usual activities.

If you have questions about the test, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special Instructions:



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Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov

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