



## EQUINE ENDOGENOUS ACTH ASSAY

### Indications

- Diagnostic test for Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID; commonly referred to as Equine Cushing's Disease).
- Monitoring equine patients receiving treatment with pergolide.

### Notes

When starting an investigation of horses with symptoms compatible for PPID, you have a choice of an overnight dexamethasone suppression test or resting adrenocorticotropin hormone (ACTH) concentration test. For many patients the ACTH concentration test will have advantages:

- Get it all done in one visit—only one blood sample is required and there is no need for an injection the day before.
- Seasonally adjusted reference intervals for interpretation throughout the year.
- New interpretative criteria, consistent with the PPID Working Group's 2011 statement.
- For certain horses, especially those with Equine Metabolic Syndrome, concern is raised that injecting dexamethasone could induce laminitis.

### Protocol

- Have a pre frozen freezer pack ready to use. (Obtain a freezer pack\* from IDEXX Reference Laboratories)
- Collect at least 2ml of blood into an EDTA tube at any time of the day. Keep the sample cool (fridge or icepacks) at all times. Centrifuge within 8 hours, harvesting **at least 1ml of EDTA plasma** to be put into a sterile tube. Then freeze the sample.
- Submit the tube in the special freezer pack such that it will be received by any one of our reference laboratories within 24 hours. During transportation, it is anticipated that the sample will defrost but remain chilled.

Test Code: EACTH

*\* To obtain a freezer pack telephone Customer Support on 00800 1234 3399 Option 1 followed by Option 1. A £30.00 deposit will be debited to your IDEXX Reference Laboratories account. This will be refunded when the freezer pack is returned.*