

HIGH DOSE DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

Indications

Diagnostic test for the differentiation of pituitary and adrenal forms of hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease) in dogs already diagnosed with hyperadrenocorticism via ACTH stimulation or low dose dexamethasone suppression (LDDS) testing.

Notes

- a) This test is not used for the initial diagnosis of hyperadrenocorticism
- b) This test is indicated for use in dogs already diagnosed as having hyperadrenocorticism where no suppression is seen on the LDDS at 4 and 8 hours.
- c) High dose dexamethasone suppression is a specific test for adrenal neoplasia but is not highly sensitive. A proportion of dogs (approximately 25%) will show poor suppression at 4 and 8 hours post dexamethasone administration despite having pituitary dependent disease. For this reason, confirmation by another modality (e.g. abdominal ultrasonography) should be sought in animals with apparent adrenal-dependent disease.

Protocol

- 1) Collect 1-2 mL blood in a plain/gel tube for basal cortisol concentration measurement.
- 2) Inject dexamethasone (**0.1 mg/kg**) intravenously.
- 3) Collect second blood sample 4 hours post injection of dexamethasone.
- 4) Collect third blood sample 8 hours post injection of dexamethasone.
- 5) All samples should be spun and separated and labelled with the name of the patient and the time of the sample.
- 6) Submit separated serum samples and request form to the laboratory. Please include a history, including drug history and select the appropriate test code (DEXH) to allow interpretation of the result.