The Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG) Test

Paediatric Investigation Unit
Tel: 01473 702589
(Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8.30am–6pm)
Hormones are natural chemicals produced by the body which help all the different organs and glands in the body work properly. These hormones are needed to make children grow normally and develop properly through puberty. This test assesses your child’s ability to produce and respond to some of these hormones.

**About the test**
Your child will be given injections of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) over a three-day period. Your child’s response to this hormone will be measured by taking regular blood tests. You may also have to collect your child’s urine for 24 hours before and/or after the test.

**The procedure**
On the first day of the test your child will need to come to Bergholt Ward for a blood test and the hCG injection. After the injection your child will be allowed to go home. Please allow at least 1–2 hours for this appointment.

On the second and third days of the test your child will need to have further injections of hCG. It may be possible for these to be given at your GP surgery. Please contact your GP to see if this is possible.

On the fourth day of the test your child will need to come to Bergholt Ward again for a further blood test.

If you need to collect your child’s urine for 24 hours before and/or after the test you will be told how and when this needs to be done.

**Side effects**
Most children experience no side effects. Very rarely they may experience nausea, vomiting or headaches.

**Car parking**
A concessionary car park ticket is available. You will need to purchase a ticket for £4.00 and bring it to the ward. A member of staff will issue you with a permit which you will need to display in your windscreen.

**Follow-up**
At your follow-up appointment you will have the opportunity to discuss the results with the doctor and find out whether any further treatment or tests are necessary.

Please ask the doctor any questions you may have or contact the ward on 01473 702589.

Please inform the ward if you are unable to make your appointment and we will try to rearrange it for you.