

SYNACTHEN TEST (Tetracosactrin or Tetracosactide)

Trade Name	Synacthen® (Clinect NZ)
Class	Anterior pituitary lobe hormone (synthetic adrenocorticotrophic hormone)
Mechanism of Action	Stimulates adrenocorticoid production
Supplied As	A clear colourless aqueous solution for intramuscular injection or intravenous infusion in a 1 mL ampoule. Each ampoule of Synacthen® i.m./i.v. 250 micrograms/mL also contains: acetic acid, sodium acetate, sodium chloride, water for injections. ¹
Indication	Diagnosis of suspected adrenocortical hypofunction ²
Dosage	0 - 6 months – 62.5mcg
Dilution	N/A
Interval	Single IV or IM dose
Administration	This test should be performed in the morning if possible as normal cortisol levels show diurnal variation.
Contraindications	Known hypersensitivity to ACTH
Compatible with	Glucose 5%, Glucose 12.5%, Sodium Chloride 0.9% Do Not mix with any other medication
Incompatible with	Do not mix with any other medication
Monitoring²	Take the 1 st 0.5mL blood sample for cortisol in an EDTA tube immediately prior to giving the tetracosactide Take the 2 nd 0.5mL blood sample for cortisol in an EDTA tube 30 minutes post dose. Observe the infant for allergic reactions during administration of the dose and for 30 minutes afterwards
Stability	Single use vial, discard remaining contents immediately after use.
Storage	Store in the fridge at 2-8 °C. After the synacthen is ordered, Pharmacy will contact NICU when they have delivered the vial and placed it in the fridge
Adverse Reactions	Rare hypersensitivity or anaphylactic reactions – ensure full resuscitation facilities and medications are available. Rash, abscess, increased infection risk, hypoglycaemia, sodium and fluid retention, hypokalaemia, bradycardia, cardiac failure, tachycardia, peripheral oedema, seizures and glaucoma however these effects are not expected with single dose diagnostic use

Metabolism	Rapidly absorbed from IM sites. Hydrolysed in the liver and then cleared by the kidneys.				
Comments	Blood Samples are sent to the Steroid Laboratory for analysis				
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/s/synactheninj.pdf 2. Short Synacthen Test (ACTH Stimulation Test) CDHB ChildHealth Guidelines (Paediatric Endocrine Service). 3. http://www.nzf.org.nz/nzf_3952 4. Neofax in www.micormedexsolutions.com 				
Updated By	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>A Lynn, B Robertshawe</td> <td>June 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Lynn, B Robertshawe</td> <td>April 2022 (update supplier and routine review)</td> </tr> </table>	A Lynn, B Robertshawe	June 2017	A Lynn, B Robertshawe	April 2022 (update supplier and routine review)
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