

# Clonidine suppression test for phaeochromocytoma (too much adrenaline hormone)

## Information for patients

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Your endocrinologist has asked us to arrange to a test to confirm you are producing too much adrenaline hormone. The test will take 4-5 hours. If you cannot make the test please let the team know so that we can arrange a more convenient time.

### How should I prepare for the test?

You should stop taking beta blocker tablets (bisoprolol, atenolol, propranolol) 2 days before the start of the test. Some antidepressant medications should be stopped 1 week before the test- please check with your endocrinologist if you do not know.

The night before the test please fast after your evening meal. You may drink water. Some foods can interfere with the blood test analysis.

Do not take any blood pressure medications on the day of the test.

### What happens during the test?

When you come to the metabolic unit, the nurses will insert a cannula in your arm and take blood samples. You will be given clonidine tablets which may reduce your blood pressure. Further blood samples will be taken after 3 hours. You can then eat breakfast. The nurses will monitor your blood pressure and once this is safe you will be free to leave.

### Are there any risks for me?

The test is safe in most people. Clonidine may reduce your blood pressure, but the nurses will keep a close eye on this during the test.

### When will I get my results?

The results of the blood test may take a month to be processed, and you should hear from your endocrinologist once the results have returned.