

Procedures/Diagnostic Tests

Secretin test

You are scheduled for a secretin test. It is a blood test used with other tests to evaluate patients with Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome (ZES).

Here is how the test works:

Gastrin is a hormone that causes the small intestine to make gastric acid (acidic juices). Gastric acid also signals the upper small intestine to make secretin. When people with ZES are given secretin through an I.V. (intravenous) line, their blood gastrin level rises. This rise is not seen in people who do not have the disorder.

The results of the secretin test, along with other test results, give important information about your condition. This test also helps your doctor decide if your treatment should be changed.

Preparation

- The test is usually done after you have stopped taking your ZES medication for 30 hours. Depending on the date of your surgery, or details specific to your case, exceptions may be made.
- Do not eat or drink after midnight on the day of the test, until the test is completed.

Procedure

- The nurse will insert an I.V. line. All blood samples will be drawn from this line.
- After the nurse draws two baseline blood samples, secretin will be given through your I.V.
- At certain intervals, the nurse will take four more samples. These samples will be tested for gastrin. About 1 ounce of blood will be drawn during this test.

After the procedure

- You may feel hot and flushed for 4 minutes after secretin is injected, but no adverse reactions to this hormone have been reported.
- Unless you have other tests that require you to have an empty stomach, your breakfast will be served.

If you have questions about the procedure, please ask. Your nurse and doctor are ready to assist you at all times.

Special instructions

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

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