



PROTOCOL – DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TESTING

(1) CANINE LOW DOSE DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

This test is used for confirmation of non-diagnostic results from an ACTH Stimulation Test. Note that this is not a suitable test for diagnosing iatrogenic hyperadrenocorticism.

1. Collect a baseline sample into a clot activator tube labeled with the animal's name and 'baseline.'
2. Inject 0.01mg/kg (100µg/kg) dexamethasone I.V.
3. 3-hours later collect a second sample into a clot activator tube. Label with the animal's name and '3-hours post.'
4. At 8-hours post-administration of dexamethasone collect a third sample. Label with the animal's name and '8-hours post.'
5. Alternatively, or in addition, label the tubes with the time of collection.

(2) CANINE HIGH DOSE DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

This test should ONLY be used once a diagnosis of Cushings disease has been confirmed. The test is useful in differentiating pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism from adrenal tumours.

1. Collect a baseline sample into a clot activator tube labeled with the animal's name and 'baseline.'
2. Inject 0.1mg/kg (100µg/kg) dexamethasone I.V.
3. 3-hours later collect a second sample into a clot activator tube. Label with the animal's name and '3-hours post.'
4. At 8-hours post-administration of dexamethasone collect a third sample. Label with the animal's name and '8-hours post.'
5. Alternatively, or in addition, label the tubes with the time of collection.

(3) FELINE COMBINED ACTH STIMULATION/DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

1. Collect a baseline sample into a clot activator tube labeled with the animal's name and 'baseline.'
2. Inject 0.1mg/kg (10µg/kg) dexamethasone I.V.
3. 2-hours later collect a second sample into a clot activator tube. Label with the animal's name and '2-hours post dex.'
4. Inject 0.125mg (125µg) Synacthen I.V. (Note: For cats weighing over 5kg 0.25mg (250µg) Synacthen may be used).
5. One hour later collect a third sample into a clot activator tube. Label with the animal's name and '1-hour post ACTH.'
6. Alternatively, or in addition, label the tubes with the time of collection.