

# Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG) Test

## Background

This test is done to check whether the gonads (testes or ovaries) can produce the male hormone, testosterone, and whether this hormone can be changed by the body into a stronger form of hormone, called dihydrotestosterone.

It is often ordered when the testicles (testes) are undescended to check if they are present inside the body and whether they are working properly.

Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin (hCG) is a hormone that is naturally produced by the placenta and is also very similar to luteinizing hormone (LH). hCG can also be made synthetically. LH is a hormone from the pituitary gland that causes the testicle to make testosterone.

Synthetic hCG is used fairly widely for:

- testing as above
- to help testes descend
- for puberty develop
- for in-vitro fertilisation

## Key points

If your child is unwell (fever, vomiting or diarrhoea), please phone the Day Treatment Unit on 6456 3772 to cancel and rebook.

## Arrival

Please go to the Day Treatment Unit. It is on the first floor at Clinic E. Take the Yellow or Pink lifts.

## The Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin Test

Once admitted a local anaesthetic cream may be applied. This cream is applied to your child's hand and/or inner elbow. This cream will numb the skin. This cream takes about an hour to work.

Your child will then have a blood sample taken to measure the male hormones, testosterone and dihydrotestosterone. After this, your child will be given an injection of hCG into the muscle of the thigh or buttock.



You will then be given another Pathology Laboratory Form and told when to come back for the second blood test. This will usually be about 72-96 hours after the hCG injection.

On that day, you take your child directly to the Pathology Laboratory at Perth Children's Hospital with the Pathology Request Form. A second blood sample will be taken, again to measure testosterone and dihydrotestosterone. After this second blood test, the study is complete and you may return home.

## Results

It usually takes a number of weeks for the laboratory to process the blood samples (sometimes up to a month or two for the dihydrotestosterone). You will receive these results at your next Endocrine Clinic or private endocrine appointment, or your doctor may phone you.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

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**Child and Adolescent Health Service**

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