

SPEG MCN is a network of health-care professionals in Scotland who have a particular interest in the care of children and young adults who have endocrine conditions.

Please contact your local nurse or hospital doctor if you need more advice.

Produced by SPEG Nurses' Sub-Group

Date of first issue: 31/01/2016

Review date: 31/01/2022



For more information, contact:

Scottish Paediatric Endocrine Group (SPEG) Network
National Network Management Service
Email: NSS.speg@nhs.net

www.speg.scot.nhs.uk



Human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) test

Information for patients, parents and carers



Your son has been offered the hCG test to check how well his testicles are working.

How does the test work?

The test involves giving injections of a naturally occurring hormone into the muscle of the upper leg to stimulate the testicles to make testosterone. Blood samples are taken to measure the amount of testosterone produced.

This is usually done over four days, as follows.

| Week | 1 | | | |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday/Friday |
| Date and time | | | | |
| hCG injection | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Blood sample | ✓ | | | ✓ |

Sometimes this test is done over a four-week period.

| Week | 1 | | | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Monday | Thursday | Monday | Thursday | Monday |
| Date and time | | | | | | | | | |
| hCG injection | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Blood sample | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |

We will arrange with you where it is best to do the injections and blood tests. If necessary, you will be given the hCG medication to take home with you. You should store this in the fridge until it is needed.

After the test

The test results will not be available immediately, but we will discuss them with you at your next clinic appointment (if we have not already contacted you before then).

Side effects

Side effects are uncommon, but your son will be expected to stay in the ward for 30 minutes after the first injection so that we can monitor any reaction.

Who to contact

Doctor's name.....

Contact number.....

Nurse's name.....

Contact number.....