

Fasting Gut Hormone Profile

The NET Patient Foundation:
supporting the neuroendocrine cancer community.

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Fasting Gut Hormone Profile

Your doctor has asked you to have a blood test to measure some very specialised hormones, which may be produced if you have a neuroendocrine tumour. The samples must be taken into specially prepared bottles and then handled in a specific way after they are taken. This means that you cannot have them done at your GP surgery.

The blood test will look for raised values in the following:

- VIP (vasoactive intestinal peptide)
- Gastrin
- Pancreatic Polypeptide
- Glucagon
- Neurotensin
- Chromogranin A
- Chromogranin B

Chromogranin A (CgA) is a general marker associated with many neuroendocrine tumours and patients with 'carcinoid syndrome'. It is a protein produced by the tumour cells and released in the blood stream.

The importance of Chromogranin A as a neuroendocrine tumour marker has been known and documented in medical literature for over 20 years.

CgA can be raised in other conditions too, so is not a stand-alone test for neuroendocrine tumours.

If you are having a fasting gut hormone profile test you will need to fast, with nothing to eat or drink except water for 6 hours. You can normally take your medications as usual, but please do check with your NET team.

Only stop taking medications if you are given specific instructions to do so.

You should be able to undertake normal activities after the test is finished and it should not interfere with your ability to drive home. If you have any queries about the test, please contact your NET team.

Please be aware that the test can take a few weeks to be processed.

Once you have had the initial fasting gut hormone profile, dependent on your diagnosis, you may only need to have a follow up Chromogranin A and B test.

Please check with your NET team. If you have a follow up Chromogranin A and B test then you may not need to fast.