

ACTH, Plasma (MUST be on ice right after they draw the blood-they can't wait until they finish drawing all the blood-it needs to be on ice right away.)

Cortisol

Growth Hormone

IGF-1 Somatomedin

FSH

LH

Estrodiol (E2)

Prolactin

Testosterone Free (Includes Total)

Free T3

Free T4

T4 Total

TSH

24 Hour Urine Free Cortisol Collection: It is best to do at least 3 of these urine test. If the patient is in early stages of the disease or in cases the tumor cells are cycling (this is only a small percentage of cases) patients levels can be normal but perhaps spiking on another day; making it imperative to catch a pattern of high cortisol along with ACTH. As well labs are often wrong so you must have more than one 24 hour urine Cortisol Free test to do comparisons. Do not do 3 in a row. A good way to do these test for example: (1) urine test on Monday, (1) urine test on Thursday, (1) urine test the following week on Wednesday. You will need to turn each jug of urine into the lab as you complete each one.

Also important note: Many patients tend to do the test on days they are week and tired and barely able to get out of bed, but usually in early stages or if they are cycling the levels will typically be normal. It's best to do this testing on days when you have more energy and kind of feel good. Cortisol will probably be high on those days. Most patients that are in early stages or cycling make the mistake thinking high cortisol makes them feel really bad but most patients actually feel worse when their levels are normal. Now keep in mind, with later stages of Cushing's the patient usually feels bad every day and it won't matter what day you do the test Cortisol levels will be very high.

Important for your doctor to know, there are pituitary tumors that are dual producing and "All" pituitary hormones need to be checked. These dual producing hormones tumors are much more common than most doctors are familiar with unless they are in a high volume pituitary center where they see this more often. Especially in children, even though pituitary disease is considered uncommon in children, when a child does have a tumor there is a very good chance it is dual producing hormones.