

ACTH Stimulation Test, 1-hour (CORST)

The ACTH stimulation test measures the functional integrity of the adrenal glands and their sensitivity to ACTH stimulation.

Draw blood for baseline cortisol. Physician then injects 250 µg cosyntropin (standard, high-dose protocol) Draw blood for cortisol at 30 and 60 minutes after injection. Label appropriately (0, 30, 60 minute cortisol). Separate serum, aliquot into the appropriately labeled 12x75mm screw cap tube and refrigerate within one hour. Refer to the Test Catalog for details.

*A baseline plasma ACTH is recommended to be drawn along with the baseline cortisol. ACTH is a critical frozen EDTA plasma and cannot be shared with the baseline cortisol; a separate sample from the same collection is needed. Separate plasma and freeze immediately avoiding hemolysis.

Note: An elevated baseline ACTH level suggests primary adrenal failure.