Patient Information Sheet
Bilateral Inferior Petrosal Sinus Sampling

Introduction

- You have been diagnosed with Cushing’s syndrome, a condition where there is excessive production of cortisol by your adrenal glands
- In your case, your adrenal glands are being stimulated by excessive production of adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) usually produced by a pituitary lesion
- Less commonly excessive production of ACTH may occur from other parts of the body
- The purpose of this test is to see whether the excess ACTH is coming from your pituitary gland
- If it confirms that your pituitary is producing excess ACTH then pituitary surgery may be recommended, otherwise further investigations may need to be carried out to look for the source of ACTH production

Procedure

- If you are taking Metyrapone or Ketoconazole, you must discontinue them one week before the procedure
- You may eat and drink as normal before the test, but it is advisable to eat only a light meal before the test as you will need to lie flat during the procedure
- On the day of the test, please report to_________________________ at __________ am/pm
- You will be taken to the Radiology department at Leeds General Infirmary or St James’s University Hospital, where you will meet the radiologist who will explain and carry out the procedure
- If you are happy to proceed, you will be asked to sign a consent form
- Initially you will be asked to lie on an X-ray table and a cannula will be inserted in your arm
- The skin in either one or both your groin will be cleaned with sterile solution followed by injection of local anaesthetic to numb the areas
- The radiologist will insert a plastic tube (catheter) in the main vein in either one or both groins
- The catheters are guided through the veins up to the vein near your pituitary gland with X-ray guidance to ensure their positions are correct
- A series of blood samples will be taken and in between samples you will be given an injection of corticotropin releasing hormone (CRH)
- After the blood samples have been collected, the catheters will be removed and gentle pressure applied to your groin area for a few minutes to help stop bleeding
- You will be asked to lie flat for a little longer and then gradually sit up and mobilise
- If there are no complications then you will be allowed home on the same day
- If you have an allergy to contrast, heart problems, bleeding problems or are unable to lie flat for a period of time then please let us know as you may not be able to have this procedure
Risks
- Bruising and bleeding may occur at the groin puncture sites
- Serious complications are very rare but may include stroke and blockage of vessels

Contacts and further information
- If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact our Endocrine nurse specialist, Julie Andrew on 0113 2066418 or the vascular radiographer assistant, Maddie Kovacs on 0113 3923311
- Further information can also be obtained from the You and Your Hormones and Pituitary Foundation websites:
  - http://www.pituitary.org.uk/content/view/40/51/

When will I get the results?

The results of this test will be reviewed by your doctor and discussed with you at your next appointment.

Should you have any queries you can contact the endocrine day unit on 0113 2065147 or the endocrine nurse specialist on 0113 2066418 (24hr answer phone on both)

JHB 18 Jan 2012