

24 hour urine collections (including those for 5HIAA)

Patient Information

Clinical Biochemistry Department - Pathology at Wigan and Salford



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Author ID: JB
Leaflet ref: CS 001
Version: 7
Leaflet title: 24 hour urine collections (including those for 5HIAA)
Last review: August 2022
Expiry Date: August 2024



Please read the information and follow the instructions given carefully, as failure to do so may result in an inaccurate result and the need to repeat the test.

What is a 24 hour urine collection?

A 24 hour urine collection is a complete collection of all the urine produced in one 24 hour period. This involves collecting all the urine in a specially provided container, which may contain a preservative. Preservatives are used for some tests to ensure that the substance being tested does not de-grade before it can be measured.

Why is a 24 hour urine collection needed?

Urine contains many waste products and chemicals produced by the body. In some situations, measurement of a particular chemical can help in identification or monitoring of a disease.

For some tests a random urine sample is adequate, but in others a 24 hour collection is necessary, as it is important to find out how much of the substance is produced in a day.

What do we look for?

The first step with all 24 hour urine samples is to measure the volume of urine that has been provided. This is an important piece of information, as it is needed to calculate the total daily output of the substance under investigation. The sample is then tested in the laboratory and the results are calculated.

What is a 24 hour urine collection for 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5HIAA)?

Patients may have a substance called 5-hydroxytryptamine in excess amounts in their body due to a rare type of growth somewhere in the body which is called a carcinoid. This can result in the symptoms of diarrhoea or facial flushing. 5-hydroxytryptamine is broken down to 5HIAA and this is detected in the urine. Measurement of urine 5HIAA is therefore useful in determining the diagnosis and whether or not treatment is required for the underlying condition.

You may have been asked to make urine collections on more than one day because patients often have intermittently raised 5-HIAA levels.

Is there anything I should avoid before 24 hour urine collection for 5HIAA?

Some foods contain a substance related to 5HIAA which can be excreted in the urine and may affect the test results. These foods should be avoided in the 3 days prior and during the 24 hour collection:

- **Avocados, bananas, aubergine (eggplant), kiwi fruit, pineapple, plums, walnuts, tomatoes and certain health food supplements containing 5 Hydroxytryptophan**

Please write down any medications that you are taking on the request form, especially if they are for high blood pressure or depression.

What you need to do to prepare for this test

You will be given a special container in which to collect the urine. It may contain a preservative or acid (for example in an investigation of 5HIAA) and this must be left in the container and not thrown away. The label will tell you if a preservative is in the container and care should be taken not to spill or touch any as it could burn the skin. Any spillage must be mopped up with plenty of water and if contact occurs, rinse the skin with copious amounts of water and inform your doctor.

You may find it is useful to collect the urine in a smaller container and straight away, carefully pour it into the large container you have been provided with.

When to collect the sample

Choose a convenient time to start the urine collection such as when you rise in the morning e.g. 8:00am. The end of the collection will be 24 hours later. Then proceed as follows:

Day 1 – 8am

Empty the bladder completely and discard the urine. For the rest of the day collect **all** urine passed into the container.

Day 2 - 8am

Empty the bladder completely and add this urine to the container. Add no more urine. This completes the collection.

Make sure that during and after the collection (until it is delivered to the hospital) the urine container is kept in a cool place.

If any urine is accidentally discarded during the collection, stop the test and tell the laboratory what has happened. You will be given another container to start again.

After the sample has been collected

Carefully label the container with the following:

- Name (forename and surname)
- Date of birth
- Date and time of collection (start and finish time) and the ward or clinic you are attending (e.g. the Outpatients Department - OPD). Unfortunately, any sample received unlabelled cannot be accepted for analysis.

What to do with the collected sample

Deliver the container and the request form if you were given one, as soon as possible after completion to either:

The Essential Services Laboratory Reception, Level 3, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
(Opening hours: 9:00am to 5:30pm)

Or

Laboratory Reception, Leigh Infirmary
(Opening hours: 9:00am to 4:30pm)

If you have been instructed to take the container to a ward or clinic, then take the container and request form there.

What are the limitations of this investigation?

The accuracy of the results depends on the quality of your sample, so it is very important that you follow the instructions on collection and delivery of the sample exactly.

Are there any alternatives to this investigation?

There are no alternatives to this test that will give as much information.

What happens to your results?

The results of the analysis will be sent to your doctor, who will explain to you what they mean and what, if any, treatment you may need. Laboratory staff members are not permitted to give you results or discuss the meaning of the results with you.

If you require further information about this test, please contact:

Clinical Biochemistry Department
Pathology at Wigan and Salford
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
Stott Lane
Salford
M6 8HD

Telephone: 0161 206 4958 or 0161 206 4959

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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