

Technical Bulletin

Endocrinology – Dexamethasone Suppression

UPDATED PROTOCOL

DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TESTING IN THE DOG

Since most published data describing canine hyperadrenocorticism have used the intravenous protocol, we are currently recommending the following testing procedure for the low and high dose dexamethasone suppression tests in the dog.

LOW DOSE DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

[Indication: Along with the ACTH stimulation test, one of the 2 tests used to confirm one's clinical suspicion of hyperadrenocorticism.]

1. Collect 1-2 ml blood (need 0.5 ml serum)
2. Inject 0.01 mg/kg dexamethasone **IV**
3. Collect a sample **4 hours** after the dexamethasone injection.
4. Collect a sample 8 hours after the dexamethasone injection.

HIGH DOSE DEXAMETHASONE SUPPRESSION TEST

[Indication: One of the diagnostic test options that may be used to determine if the hyperadrenocorticism is of adrenal or pituitary origin.]

1. Collect 1-2 ml blood (need 0.5 ml serum)
2. Inject 0.1 mg/kg dexamethasone **IV**
3. Collect a sample **4 hours** after the dexamethasone injection.
4. Collect a sample 8 hours after the dexamethasone injection.