

Side Effects

Some people may have a small red mark on their skin after the test; this fades in a short time.

What Do The Results Mean ?

If the test shows that you or your child has a high level of salt in the sweat, your doctor may order a blood test to see if you or your child has CF.

If the results of the test are unclear or if not enough sweat has been collected, the test will be repeated.

Location

The test will be carried out on your child's ward or within the Out Patients Department of Children's University Hospital, Temple Street.



Who Will Give You The Results?

The test results will be sent to your doctor. If the results are outside the normal range, laboratory staff will contact your doctor by phone.

Results will only be given to you by your doctor as it is against hospital policy for laboratory staff to give results directly to patients or their families.

Questions

If you have any further questions please contact the doctor who is sending you for the test.

If you wish to cancel or rearrange your appointment please phone as soon as possible

01 878 4266

Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

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Sweat Test

Information for Patients, Parents and Carers

Main Hospital Number
01 878 4200



What is a Sweat Test ?

This test is carried out to collect a sample of sweat from you or your child.

The test measures the amount of salts (sodium and chloride) in the sample of sweat.

Preparation For Test

No special preparation is required. You should tell the doctor if you / your child are taking medication as this may need to be stopped before the test is carried out.

Who May Need The Test ?

The test is carried out on babies, children and adults who have a lot of chest infections, have frequent loose or pale stools (bowel motions), lose weight or have problems with their growth. The test is carried out to exclude Cystic Fibrosis (CF) as a cause of these symptoms.

Babies may also be referred for a sweat test by the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme

What is CF?

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a genetic condition which is inherited from both parents.

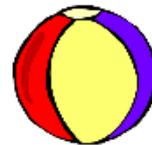
CF affects you or your child's lungs and gut. It is important that it is diagnosed so treatment can be started early.

Who Carries Out The Test?

The test will be carried out by a member of staff from the laboratory who is experienced in doing this test on children and adults.

Does It Hurt ?

No, but some children say they can feel a slight tingle. There are no needles involved. You can stay with your child during the test.



What Happens During the Test?

Gauze patches soaked in a solution are placed on you / your child's lower arm or leg. A small electrical charge is then passed across the gauze patch to stimulate the skin to produce sweat.

Filter paper is then placed on your child's arm / leg and left in place for 30 minutes in order to collect the sweat.

While waiting, your child can play and eat normally, once they/you do not eat salty foods such as crisps.

After 30 minutes the paper is removed and the sweat sample is tested in the laboratory.