

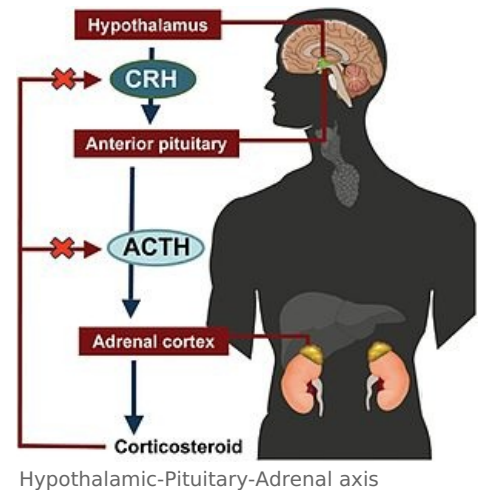
Dexamethasone suppression test

Basic test for suspected **Cushing's syndrome**.

Principle of the test: Inhibition test based on the principle of **negative feedback**. The application of a synthetic glucocorticoid (**dexamethasone**, DEX) physiologically leads to the suppression of the ACTH-cortisol axis and therefore to a decreased secretion of both hormones. In patients with Cushing's syndrome (whether primary or secondary), this response is insufficient.

The **Dexamethasone test** has several variations. The most frequently used is the short „*overnight*“ test during which a single dose is administered in the evening (**1 mg** or **2 mg per os**). In the morning, the levels of ACTH and Cortisol before and after the administration of DEX are compared.

An alternative is the **six-day** dexamethasone test during which a low dose (2 mg) is followed by a high dose (8 mg) of DEX. Normally, the Hypophysis and Adrenal glands respond even after administering a low dose of DEX. In patients with central Cushing's syndrome (Pituitary adenoma) the suppression occurs only after a high dose of DEX. If there's no reaction, another type of Cushing's syndrome has to be considered – peripheral or **paraneoplastic** Cushing's syndrome.



Links

Original text is from WikiSkripta – Dexametazonový supresní test <https://www.wikiskripta.eu/index.php?curid=76644>

Related Articles

- Hypophysis
- Examination of the function of the thyroid gland
- Endocrine disease of the gonads

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