

5HIAA & Catecholamines by HPLC

ACT Pathology offers this specialised area of testing, utilising High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), the “gold standard” for analysis of 5HIAA (in the diagnosis of Carcinoid Syndrome) and catecholamines & their metabolites (in the diagnosis of Pheochromocytoma & Neuroblastoma). ACT Pathology is the only medical testing laboratory in the Canberra region offering the local measurement of these analytes. Specimens received by Monday afternoon are analysed each Tuesday & Wednesday with results available each Thursday.

An acidified 24 hour urine is the preferred specimen type for both 5HIAA and catecholamines. A 24 hour urine collection is important when screening for disease states where there may be episodic excretion eg Pheochromocytoma. (The recommended screening protocol for Pheochromocytoma is the collection of 3 consecutive 24 hour urines. The presence of 2 or more normal results will exclude the diagnosis of “secretory” Pheochromocytoma in 99% of cases.)

Neuroblastoma screens can be performed on a random urine specimen in neonates and children; this should be arranged through the laboratory, as the specimen will need to be acidified as soon as possible after collection. The Neuroblastoma screen includes catecholamines and vasoactive metabolites to give a full picture of tumour presentation and/or progression.

ACT Pathology has experienced technical and scientific officers fully trained in the field of HPLC and also has the latest equipment to provide the best results possible. These officers are backed up by our Chemical Pathologist, who provides interpretation of all abnormal results to assist in diagnosis. He is also available for consultation and can offer advice on how ACT Pathology can best assist in diagnosis (and monitoring of treatment), utilising our specialised testing facilities and in recommending additional special tests where necessary to assist you.

For further information please contact:

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