
Biolab Medical Unit

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Gut Permeability Test (using Peg 400) - Patient Instructions

For your information:

PEG 400 is a mixture of eleven sizes of polyethylene glycol molecules which, following ingestion, pass through the gut wall and into the circulation with differing levels of ease.

By measuring the amounts of each molecular size of PEG that subsequently appears in the urine, we are able to reconstruct an absorption profile. This helps your doctor assess the possible absorption of substances that are normally excluded from the circulation. It can also be used to identify malabsorption syndromes.

PEG does not take any part in your body chemistry and the test dose will not cause any problems for you.

Carrying out the test:

1. Fast for 3 hours before taking the PEG (you might find it most convenient to commence the test first thing in the morning).
2. The dose of PEG should be taken with a glass (250 ml) of water; immediately afterwards empty your bladder.
3. Collect all urine passed for the next 6 hours into any convenient washed container; a container with a capacity of 1.5 litres, eg. a mineral water bottle, is most suitable.
4. Do not take any food or fluid for the first two hours after swallowing the PEG. Make the last urine collection exactly 6 hours after taking the PEG.

After the test

5. Clearly label the urine container with your name and "PEG TEST" (please also include your Biolab reference number if this test follows a Biolab appointment). Return the sample to Biolab within 72 hours. If there is to be any delay before posting, the sample should be stored in a refrigerator.

If you have not already paid for this test, please send your payment of £75.00 with the sample.

If you can accurately measure the total volume of urine collected, you can return a small well-mixed sample of the urine collection in the empty container supplied. Please ensure that the total volume of the collection is written on the label. This is important as the total volume is required for the accurate interpretation of the results.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Note

We will only accept samples for analysis if they are clearly labelled with the patient's name and date of birth. You should also include a contact address and telephone number, together with the referring doctor's full name and address.

If you do not have a Biolab green pathology request form or a letter from your doctor to submit with the sample, please write the above details on the reverse of this sheet and enclose it with the sample.

Thank you for your help.