

Sweat Chloride Test

Your child is getting a sweat chloride test in the lab. It will take about 1 hour. This test measures the amount of chloride in your child's sweat. The test is done to help find out one possible cause of lung infections and failure to gain weight in children.

The test involves putting a small device on your child's forearms or thighs. It is shaped like a rectangle with a battery in it. The device puts out a very low electrical current for 8 minutes. The current causes the skin around the device to sweat. The current may prickle a little and the area may be slightly red for a few hours after the test. Very rarely, a small burn may result.

After the device is removed, the area of your child's skin is covered with a patch and wrapped to stay warm. The patch is left in place for 30 minutes. The patch is then removed and the collected sweat is checked for chloride.

Often very young babies do not sweat as much as older children. Sometimes the test must be done again if we did not collect enough sweat. If a high level of chloride is found, your child's doctor may ask that your child have another test.

How to get the results

Call your child's doctor to get the results of this test. The lab does not give out results to families because the information is best talked over with your child's doctor.

The lab will have the results available after 4 p.m. today. Your child's doctor may call the lab after that time. The lab will mail the results to your doctor the next day.

TO LEARN MORE

- Call your child's doctor for the results of the test.
- Children's Consulting Nurses (206) 987-2500

Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Please call the Family Resource Center at (206) 987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Children's Hospital. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's health-care provider.