

ENDOCRINOLOGY

ENDOCRINOLOGY is the part of medicine that deals with disorders of the endocrine system. The endocrine system is comprised of integrated small organs that are involved in the release of hormones. Hormones are important in regulating several aspects of the human body including metabolism, growth and development. By testing hormone levels we can help in diagnosing several disorders including:

1. **Male and Female Infertility**
2. **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome:** the most common hormonal disorder amongst women. Polycystic Ovary Syndrome is also a leading cause of infertility.
3. **Thyroid Diseases**
4. ***Hirsutism:** Condition characterized by the excessive growth of hair or the growth of hair in unusual places especially in women.
5. ***Menopause:** That period which marks the permanent cessation of menstrual activity. Occurs between 35 and 58 years of life. The menses may stop suddenly, there may be a decreased flow each month until there is a final cessation, or the interval between periods may be lengthened until complete cessation is accomplished. Menopause may be accompanied by hot and cold flashes, feelings of weakness, and in some cases mental depression.
6. **Andropause** (male menopause): a term used to describe a decrease in certain hormones including testosterone.
7. **Impotence**
8. ***Amenorrhea:** Absence or suppression of menstruation; normal before puberty, after the menopause, during pregnancy and lactation.

Useful Websites for additional Information:

1. For more information on endocrine disorders visit the National Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases Information Service at:
<http://www.endocrine.niddk.nih.gov/>
2. For more information on specific lab tests visit Lab tests online at:
<http://www.labtestsonline.org/understanding/index.html>

*Definitions according to Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary.

ENDOCRINOLOGY PROFILES

MENOPAUSE

FSH
LH
Oestradiol (17-Beta)
TSH
FT4

HIRSUTISM

FSH
LH
Testosterone
DHEA s
SHBG

AMENORRHEA

LH
FSH
Prolactin
Oestradiol (17-Beta)

PITUITARY FUNCTION

TSH
FSH
LH
Prolactin
Growth Hormone
Cortisol

Make a note of time of day
sample is taken with request

ANDROPAUSE

DHEA s
FSH
LH
SHBG
Testosterone

THYROID PROFILE

TSH
Free T3
Free T4
Thyroid Antibodies