

**CORTISOL SUPPRESSION BY
DEXAMETHASONE,
OVERNIGHT HIGH DOSE,
SERUM
(CLIA)**

Cortisol, Day 1 (Basal)		ug/dL	4.30 – 22.40
Cortisol, Day 2 (Post Dexamethasone)		ug/dL	<50% of basal

Note: 1. Suppressant is 4 mg tablet Dexamethasone administered orally at 11 p.m of previous day.

2. If post dexamethasone levels are >50% of basal level, test should be repeated with 8-24 mg of Dexamethasone, if clinically indicated

Comments

- Most patients with Cushing's syndrome show a suppression of baseline cortisol concentration of at least 50%
- Patients with an ectopic ACTH producing tumor, fail to suppress with high dose dexamethasone
- Abnormal suppression of cortisol with dexamethasone has been seen in patients with depression, severe stress, uncontrolled Diabetes, Anorexia nervosa, Estrogen administration and medications like Phenytoin

Clinical Use

High dose dexamethasone suppression test is used for the differential diagnosis of an ACTH secreting pituitary adenoma from an ectopic ACTH source