

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET – PENICILLAMINE CHALLENGE TEST

Your doctor has recommended that you take this test to help with the diagnosis and the management of your condition. Please read the information below carefully and ask us about anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

WHAT IS A THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEST?

This test helps us decide whether you have too much copper in your body hence a condition called Wilson's disease. This condition makes your body not able to excrete enough copper hence copper would build up in your tissues over time. If Wilson's disease is diagnosed it enables the doctor to give the patient the right treatment to prevent copper building up in tissues and causing damage.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

If you have been on Penicillamine, you will be advised to stop taking this for a few months before the test.

IS ANY DRUG OR MEDICINE USED DURING THIS TEST?

You will be given two oral doses of Penicillamine (500mg each), about fourteen hours apart.

HOW LONG WILL THE TEST TAKE AND WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

You will do two urine collections at home, each over 24 hours. The first 24 hour collection will be done before you are given the Penicillamine. The second 24 hour collection should be done as follows:

0900 h	Start 24 h urine collection for copper Take the 500mg D-Penicillamine
2100 h	Take a second dose of 500mg D-Penicillamine.
0900 h	Complete 24h urine collection.

Remember not to collect the first urine passage at 9am but to collect all other urine passages including the last one at 9 am the next morning.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS TEST?

Very rarely allergic reactions may occur from Penicillamine. You must let the doctor know if you have known allergy to this medication.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE TEST?

Bring your urine samples to the laboratory for analysis. These must be clearly labeled with the time urine collection started and time finished. When your results are available, the doctor that requested the test will discuss these with you. This will usually be at your next clinic appointment. They will advise you about other tests you might need.

WHERE AND WHEN CAN I HAVE THE TEST?

This test can be organised only by appointment at Basildon Hospital Pathology Department or by the doctor who requested it for you. You will be informed of when and where your test will be done by the doctor who will organise it for you.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you need any more information, please telephone the laboratory on [01268 524900](tel:01268524900) extension [3030](tel:01268524900) or [3015](tel:01268524900) or ask your GP.

Patient self-help groups and further information:

[Wilson's Disease Support Group](#)

36 Audley Drive
Lenton Abbey
Beeston
Nottingham NG9 2SF
www.wilsonsdisease.org.uk

Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.