

## Does it make sense to repeat the ACTH test for a dog who has already failed the test and has been diagnosed with Addison's Disease?

According to the following article from NationWide Specialist Laboratories, the answer is a definitive no.

From <http://thehormonelab.com/handbook/adrenocortical-function/canine-hypoadrenocorticism-addisons-disease>

### “Monitoring therapy

The laboratory monitoring of primary hypoadrenocorticism focuses on electrolyte status. There is no value in repeating ACTH stimulation tests in animals which have failed adrenal glands. The artefactual cortisol concentrations generated from the cross-reaction of prednisolone in the assay are not biologically equivalent and so a cortisol assay cannot assess the adequacy of glucocorticoid therapy. Biologically equivalent cortisol results can be obtained only during periods that hydrocortisone is the exclusive corticosteroid therapy.

The monitoring of secondary hypoadrenocorticism is based mostly on clinical response with periodic attempts to find the lowest glucocorticoid dose at which the animal appears well. Liver enzyme analysis can help identify steroid hepatopathy resulting from glucocorticoid excess.”