



Ambulatory Care Services
Patient and Family Education

Sweat Chloride Test

Your child is scheduled for a sweat chloride test in the Ambulatory clinic. This test will take approximately one hour and will measure the amount of chloride in your child's sweat. This test is done to help diagnose or rule out cystic fibrosis.

How do I prepare my child?

Do not put creams or lotions on your child's skin for 24 hours prior to the test

Your test may need to be rescheduled if:

Your child has fever or other illness in the 24 hours preceding the test
Call (504) 896-2888 to reschedule the test

What happens during a sweat chloride test?

1. We will put two small gel pads on your child's forearms or thighs.
2. The gel pads are then attached to a small device that puts out a very low electrical current for five minutes. The current causes the skin under the gel pads to sweat. The current may prickle a little and the area may be red for a few hours after the test.
In very rare cases, a small burn may result.
3. After the gel pads are removed, the area is covered with a collector. This is a small round watch-like device that will collect the sweat. It is left in place for up to 30 minutes. If you leave the waiting area, please be back on time. The test may not be valid if you return late.



Stimulating sweat glands



Collecting sweat

4. The collector is then removed and the sweat is checked for chloride. There may be a temporary small spot of blue dye on the skin where the collector was.
5. This test will be performed on two sites.

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.

The clinician performing the test will explain the steps of the test. To find out more detailed information about the test, please contact your child's healthcare provider.