

## Blood tests for an insulinoma – UK

Insulinomas can be diagnosed through a simple fasting blood test. The blood samples must be handled and stored correctly. Failure to do so can result in the blood haemolysing and the 72-hour fast being repeated because of invalid or no results. The three blood tests are:

### Glucose

<http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx..>

#### Container:



|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Reference Range:</b>     | Fasting: 4.1 - 6.0 mmol/L                                    |
| <b>Turnaround Time:</b>     | 1 Day  |
| <b>Description:</b>         | Glucose  |
| <b>Sample Requirements:</b> | 1 tube Fluoride/oxalate (grey-top)<br>0.2 ml plasma required |

### Insulin

Must be stored on ice and sent to the lab within an hour of taking it, otherwise it will hemolyse and the results will be invalid <http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx...>

#### Container:



|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Reference Range:</b> | See biochemistry report |
| <b>Turnaround Time:</b> | 1 week                  |

**Description:**

Serum Insulin

**Sample Requirements:**

Labile, to lab within 1 hour  
1 tube clotted blood (yellow-top), lithium-heparin plasma (green-top) also accepted  
Store frozen unless sending immediately  
0.2 ml serum required

**Interference:**

Sample haemolysis will cause a loss of insulin.

**Transportation and Handling:**

Samples should be brought to the lab within 1 hour of sample collection.

**Time limits for requesting additional examinations:**

3 months from sample receipt.

**C-Peptide**

Must be stored on ice and sent to the lab within an hour of taking it, otherwise it will hemolyse and the results will be invalid. <http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx...>

**Container:****Reference Range:**

See biochemistry report

**Turnaround Time:**

1 week

**Description:**

C-Peptide

**Sample Requirements:**

Serum preferred (Li/Hep plasma accepted)  
Collection as for insulin  
Labile, to lab within 1 hour  
Minimum 0.2 mL

**Transportation and Handling:**

Samples should be brought to the lab within 1 hour of sample collection.  
Store and transport frozen.

**Time limits for requesting additional examinations:**

3 months from sample receipt.