The basic ACTH stimulation test for Addison's disease:

Baseline plasma ACTH level and serum cortisol

One ampule of Cortrosyn (ACTH) IV push

1 hour sample of serum cortisol. If warranted by clinical situation, one can add serum aldosterone to baseline and 1 hour collections.

If the test is for secondary adrenal insufficiency, a low dose of Cortrosyn is used (the 250 mcg ampule is diluted with sterile saline) to give generally about 5 mcg.

The National Adrenal Diseases Foundation (NADF) is a non-profit organization providing information, education and support to all persons affected by adrenal disease.

For more information on joining NADF, or to find a support group in your area, contact:

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NADF does not engage in the practice of medicine. It is not a medical authority, nor does it claim to have medical knowledge. In all cases, NADF recommends that you consult your own physician regarding any course of treatment or medication.