

Table of Contents

ASY-817.1: Calcium Infusion Test For Calcitonin Provocation.....	1
ASY-817.2: Associated Documents	1
ASY-817.3: Distribution Of Documents	1
ASY-817.4: Review of Document:.....	1
ASY-817.5: Purpose	2
ASY-817.6: Principle.....	2
ASY-817.7: Preparation of patient	2
ASY-817.8: Procedure.....	2
ASY-817.9: Sampling instructions	2

ASY-817.5: Purpose

To measure Calcitonin during and after infusion in patients suspected of having medullary carcinoma of the thyroid.

ASY-817.6: Principle

Elevation of serum calcium causes excess of calcitonin in such patients.

ASY-817.7: Preparation of patient

Diet is normal and the patient need not be fasting.

ASY-817.8: Procedure

A 4 hour calcium infusion with sampling for plasma calcitonin at 0, ½, 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours.

- a** Form: 10% calcium gluconate (90mg Ca⁺⁺/10ml).
- b** Dose: 15mg/kg body weight.
- c** Weight: made up to 500ml in normal saline.
- d** Drip rate: 125ml/hr for 4 hours.

ASY-817.9: Sampling instructions

At least 0.6ml of serum is required for the calcitonin assay. Use a pre-chilled, plain tube. Allow to clot for 1-3 hour at 4°C, then centrifuge at 4°C. Freeze immediately and store. Samples must be sent to lab on ice if not frozen.

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