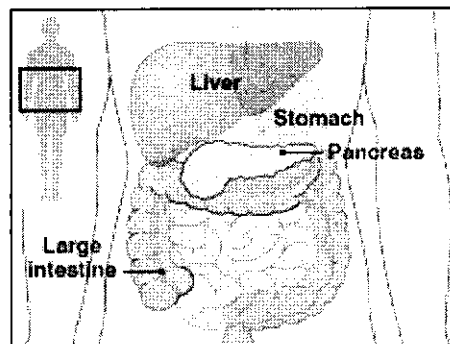


Pancreatic Stimulation Testing

What is the pancreas?

The pancreas is a gland that is located behind the stomach toward the upper part of the abdomen. Enzymes that are used for digestion are produced in the pancreas. Under normal conditions, food that is partially digested enters the small intestine from the stomach. The small intestine produces secretin which makes the pancreas release a fluid that contains the digestive enzymes. The enzymes enable the body to break down food and absorb nutrients. The pancreas also has other functions such as insulin and other hormone production.



Who should have Pancreatic Stimulation Testing?

When the pancreas is diseased, it is more difficult for the body to produce secretin, which then makes the digestion process more difficult. This is called pancreatic insufficiency. There may be other causes of pancreatic insufficiency such as cystic fibrosis, cancer, low pancreatic elastase and chronic pancreatitis. These patients are most often tested for pancreatic insufficiency.

What to expect during Pancreatic Stimulation Testing:

You will be asked to arrive at the CARES unit 2 hours prior to the scheduled procedure time. A CARES nurse will start an IV on your child while he/she is awake, and a drug called Kinevac or Sincalide, is given in a 30-minute infusion in a pre-op room in CARES. These medications act like cholecystkinin, another substance produced by the body that stimulates pancreatic secretion. Your child will then be taken to the procedure room, where the anesthesia team will administer anesthesia through the IV, and the scope will begin after your child is asleep. The time that your child will be under anesthesia may vary, however the average time for this procedure will be 45 minutes to one hour. If your child is having other procedures done in conjunction with this, the time will be longer than one hour. Duodenal fluid will be collected from your child during the scope, and sent out for specialized testing. It may take a week to 10 days after the test before results are available. If you have not heard from our office after 10 days about your results, please contact us at 402-955-5700.