

Gut Hormones	
Description	The gastrointestinal tract is the largest endocrine organ in the body and is responsible for the production of several hormones including: Gastrin, Glucagon, Pancreatic Polypeptide (PP), Somatostatin, Vasoactive Intestinal Polypeptide (VIP) and Cocaine- and Amphetamine Regulated Transcript Immunoreactivity (CART LI), which replaces neurotensin.
Indication	Neuroendocrine tumours, endocrine causes for diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal problems.
Additional Info	<p>Chromogranin A and B can be requested as part of a gut hormone profile. Sample sent to external referral laboratory for analysis.</p> <p>Before testing review medications taken by the patient as some medications can increase hormone levels e.g. when measuring chromogranin A; Histamine 2 blockers should be stopped for 72 hours, and proton pump inhibitors should be stopped for two weeks before testing. Contact the Duty Biochemist for further information</p>
Concurrent Tests	5-HIAA, urine catecholamines/metradrenalines
Dietary Requirements	Patient must be fasting for >10 hours.
Interpretation	See information provided by external referral laboratory.
Collection Conditions	Gut hormones are very unstable therefore sample must be collected on ICE, separated and frozen ASAP.
Frequency of testing	May be requested periodically to evaluate effectiveness of treatment and monitor tumour recurrence.