

Medication Absorption (Kinetic) Tests

Patient Information

Your pain specialist has suggested that you have a "Medication Absorption test". This leaflet explains the purpose of the Medication Absorption test. It also explains what will be done during the test.

Please read this very carefully before agreeing to undergo the Medication Absorption Study. If you have questions about the test, ask the doctor before you agree to have a Medication Absorption test.

What is the Medication Absorption test?

A medication absorption test is performed to find out if your pain relieving medication is being absorbed properly and reaching therapeutic levels.

It is usually performed in 2 stages, the first determines the concentration of the medication in your blood and its relationship to your reported pain level, which is then compared in the second stage to the amount in your blood and reported pain level obtained from an injection of that medicine.

What happens during the Medication Absorption Test?

You are admitted to hospital. Baseline observations will be taken.

You will be asked to complete a Brief Pain Inventory questionnaire at admission. The suggested pain/symptom rating scale is 0/10 for no pain/symptom, 1-4/10 for mild pain/symptom that can be managed without additional treatment, 5-6 for moderate pain that can be managed, but is a struggle and you would like help and 7-10/10 being severe pain/symptom that you can't manage and need help.

If you have poor veins, you may also require the insertion of a special intravenous catheter to make blood sampling easier and less uncomfortable. This will usually be done the previous afternoon.

A baseline blood sample will be taken before you take your medication. You will be 'witnessed' taking your pain relieving medication. Further blood samples will be taken 1-2 hourly during 8 hour tests and 2-4 hourly during 24 hour tests.

Pain scores at rest and with activity will be recorded when blood samples are taken. It is important that you be as active as can be reasonably achieved during your stay in hospital so that the pain scores better reflect the serum concentration of your pain relieving medication.