



3-Hour Glucose Tolerance Test

Some women develop gestational diabetes when they are pregnant. The 3-hour glucose tolerance test is a follow-up test that is done after an abnormal glucola screening test for diabetes. This handout describes the 3-hour glucose tolerance test.

If your glucola screening results are higher than the normal limits (greater than 140), you may need a 3-hour *glucose tolerance test* (GTT) to find out if you have diabetes. Plan to be at your appointment for about 4 hours for this test.

What the Test Involves

The GTT is done first thing in the morning (at 8, 8:30, or 9 a.m.), before you have eaten. It involves having your blood drawn for a fasting blood sugar, then drinking a sugar-sweetened drink. After you drink this, you will have 3 more blood tests, 1 hour apart.

How to Prepare for Your Test

- Please eat normally during the 2 to 3 days before your GTT.
- **Do not eat anything or chew gum after midnight the night before your test.** It will be a long time before your next meal, so be sure and have a good snack just before you stop eating for the night.
- After midnight, you may drink plain water, but no tea, coffee, or other beverages.
- Do not eat again until after your last blood sugar test.
- You may eat right after the test is over. Pack a sandwich or healthy snack and bring it with you to eat after the last blood test.
- Plan to arrive at least 10 minutes before your appointment. Go directly to the lab to have your blood drawn. The lab is on the 3rd floor (main floor) of the medical center. The lab will already have your paperwork.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Maternal and Infant
Care Clinic:
206-598-4070

When You Arrive for Your Test

- Your blood sugar will be checked to make sure it is safe to continue with the test.
 - If your blood sugar is too high, the test may be stopped.
 - If your blood sugar is within a certain range, the test will continue.
- You will be asked to drink 10 ounces of a carbonated sugar drink (twice the amount you drank for the glucola test).
- Your blood will be drawn and tested 1 hour later.
- Over the next 2 hours, it will be drawn and tested 2 more times, for a total of 4 blood tests in 3 hours.

After Your Test

After your test, you may feel sluggish, nauseated, or just plain hungry. Now you can eat the sandwich or snack you brought with you.

Your Test Results

Your test results might be ready on the same day that you take the test. If your results are abnormal, we will make an appointment for a clinic visit with you.

At the clinic visit, we will talk with you about your results. Together, we will create a care plan to keep you and your baby healthy during your pregnancy.

UW Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER

Maternal and Infant Care Clinic

Box 356159
1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195
206-598-4070