

## **ASY-832.5: Protocol for overnight 8 mg Dexamethasone suppression test in the differential diagnosis of ACTH dependent Cushing's syndrome.**

### **ASY-832.5.1: Day 1**

- a** Insert 22G cannula
- b** Take a sample for plasma cortisol at
  - i** 0800 h
  - ii** 0830 h
  - iii** 0900 h
- c** Flush cannula 4 hourly to maintain potency
- d** Give Dexamethasone 8 mg orally at 2400 h (midnight)

### **ASY-832.5.2: Day 2**

- a** Take a sample for plasma cortisol at
  - i** 0800 h
  - ii** 0830 h
  - iii** 0900 h

## **ASY-832.6: Interpretation**

### **ASY-832.6.1: Traditional**

50% suppression of plasma cortisol at 0800h on day 2 compared to 0800h on day 1 is suggestive of Cushing's disease.

### **ASY-832.6.2: NIH**

>68% suppression of plasma cortisol at 0900h on day 2 compared to 0830h on day 1 has specificity of 100% and sensitivity of 70% in distinguishing pituitary from ectopic ACTH. (Rationale is that ectopic ACTH secreting tumours showing suppression at 0800h tend to escape by 0900h).

## **ASY-832.7: References**

Dicheck et al, 1994. JCEM 78: 418-22