



Department of Biochemical Genetics
Head: Anthi Drousiotou, BSc, PhD

P.O. Box 3462, Nicosia-Cyprus
TEL. +357-22-392643 Office
+357-22-392644/5 Laboratory
FAX. +357-22-392768
E mail. anthidr@cing.ac.cy

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GUIDELINES FOR CSF COLLECTION

Neurotransmitter Analysis

Metabolites assayed: HVA, 5HIAA, neopterin, dihydrobiopterin, tetrahydrobiopterin, pyridoxal phosphate.

Sample: the first **2ml** must be used. You will be provided with three tubes labelled 1, 2 and 3 and with a mark indicating the volume of the sample.

- Collect the first **0.5ml** of CSF into tube 1.
- Collect the second **0.5ml** of CSF into tube 2.
- Collect the next **1ml** of CSF into tube 3. This tube contains preservative so **mix gently**.
- Ideally the samples should be frozen at bedside on dry ice or liquid nitrogen. If this is not possible, put the samples at -20°C (freezer) immediately and send to the lab the next day with cool packs.
- Provide clinical details. For the diagnosis of dopamine disorders the value of **prolactin** is useful.
- Fill in the special form for sending samples abroad.

Other tests

For other tests in CSF such as glucose, protein, lactate, amino acids etc. collect sample **after** the first 2ml are taken for neurotransmitter analysis. Please note that for these tests a **blood sample** has to be taken just before lumbar puncture so that ratios can be calculated.