

Tetracosactide (Synacthen®)

Tetracosactide dosing may be weight based; ensure accuracy of documented weight before administration		
Form	250 microgram per mL	Store in a refrigerator (2-8°C). Keep ampoules in the outer carton.
Reconstitution	Already in solution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle • Use gloves when opening ampoules 	
Compatibility & Stability	Sodium chloride 0.9%	
Administration	IV Injection	
	Give by slow injection over 2 minutes. Can be diluted to a convenient volume to aid administration.	
	IM Injection	
	Give by IM injection.	
Adverse Drug Reactions	Patients should be kept under observation for 30 minutes after the injection due to the possibility of hypersensitivity reactions. Ensure resuscitation facilities are available should a serious hypersensitivity reaction occur.	
Additional Information	Tetracosactide (Synacthen®) is used as a diagnostic test for the investigation of adrenocortical insufficiency. This test (the short Synacthen® test) is based on measurement of the plasma cortisol concentration immediately before and exactly 30 minutes after an intramuscular or intravenous injection of 250microgam (1mL) Synacthen®	
	Indications	
	Diagnosis of adrenal insufficiency and can be used as screening procedure in the non-critically ill patient Liaise with endocrinology service to ensure testing appropriate and for support around result interpretation	
	Cautions/Contraindications	
	Acute psychosis; adrenogenital syndrome; allergic disorders; asthma; avoid injections containing benzyl alcohol in neonates; Cushing's syndrome; infectious diseases; peptic ulcer; primary adrenocortical insufficiency; refractory heart failure.	
	Procedure	
	Non fasting If on hydrocortisone, last dose should be at midday the day before Test begins at 09:00 Plain tetracosactrin Synacthen 250 micrograms IV or IM at time 0	
	Samples	
	Serum cortisol (red bottle) at time 0, 30, 60 min Serum ACTH if required (pink bottle from laboratory) at time 0 min Ensure samples clearly state time of sample and that these are part of a Synacthen Test e.g SST T0 09:00	

Information provided relates to Synacthen® (Alfasigma)
Last updated 5/12/2025

This information has been summarised to act as a guide for those administering IV medication. The monograph should be used in conjunction with the drug data sheet and BNF for information on dose, adverse effects, cautions and contra-indications. Further information is available from Pharmacy on 22146 or 22542