

Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test Flow Chart and Interpretation

The attached chart (on page 2) may help you interpret the results of the Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test (LDDST). This test assesses the ability of the adrenal glands to suppress cortisol production in response to dexamethasone, a synthetic glucocorticoid.

The LDDST is the most common way to screen for Cushing's disease. False negatives are rare with this test. However, it has some limitations, including potential for false positives in dogs with other diseases or those that are sick or stressed. If possible, other illnesses should be resolved or controlled before testing.

The ACTH stimulation test is preferred over the LDDST for use in diagnosis of Cushing's (1) when a dog has a significant non-adrenal illness, such as diabetes mellitus, or (2) when medical history suggests iatrogenic (steroid-induced) Cushing's disease.

Low-Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Protocol

For Cases of Suspected Cushing's Syndrome

