



Children's Hospital for Wales



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Nasal Nitric Oxide test



For further advice or support please contact:

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What is the nasal nitric oxide test for?

Cilia are tiny hair like structures that line the nasal passages. They continuously move to sweep mucus, dust and other small particles along the airways to keep the airways clean. In primary ciliary dyskinesia, the cilia do not work properly. The test helps us understand whether the cilia are working properly and helps us decide whether we need to do any further tests to look for primary ciliary dyskinesia.

Your child may be having other tests performed on the same day.

How do we do the nasal nitric oxide test?

The test involves sucking out a sample of air from the nasal passages. The machine then analyses it for Nitric Oxide levels

If the sample is contaminated by air in the room the test won't work. The probe is therefore shaped a bit like a cone and is fitted neatly into the nostril. This does not hurt. The probe is attached to a small tube which is connected to the analyser.

We also need to make sure that the back of the nasal cavity where it joins the throat is closed, so that only air from the nasal passages is sampled. This can be achieved by breathing in and out through the mouth, with your mouth wide open. Sometimes children are asked to breathe in and out through a cylindrical mouthpiece to ensure that their mouth remains open during the sampling procedure.

The sampling procedure takes approximately 60 seconds and will be repeated several times.

You will be given the results of the test at your next clinic appointment along with other tests taken on the day