Blood tests for an insulinoma – UK

Insulinomas can be diagnosed through a simple fasting blood test. The blood samples must be handled and stored correctly. Failure to do so can result in the blood haemolyzing and the 72-hour fast being repeated because of invalid or no results. The three blood tests are:

**Glucose**


**Container:**

![Image of Glucose container](image)

**Reference Range:**  Fasting: 4.1 - 6.0 mmol/L

**Turnaround Time:**  1 Day

**Description:**  Glucose

**Sample Requirements:**  1 tube Fluoride/oxalate (grey-top)
  0.2 ml plasma required

**Insulin**

Must be stored on ice and sent to the lab within an hour of taking it, otherwise it will haemolyse and the results will be invalid [http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx.](http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx.)

**Container:**

![Image of Insulin container](image)

**Reference Range:**  See biochemistry report

**Turnaround Time:**  1 week
Description: Serum Insulin

Sample Requirements: Labile, to lab within 1 hour
1 tube clotted blood (yellow-top), lithium-heparin plasma (green-top) also accepted
Store frozen unless sending immediately
0.2 ml serum required

Interference: Sample haemolysis will cause a loss of insulin.

Transportation and Handling: Samples should be brought to the lab within 1 hour of sample collection.

Time limits for requesting additional examinations: 3 months from sample receipt.

C-Peptide
Must be stored on ice and sent to the lab within an hour of taking it, otherwise it will hemolyse and the results will be invalid. http://www.nhspathology.fph.nhs.uk/.../Details.aspx

Container:

Reference Range: See biochemistry report

Turnaround Time: 1 week

Description: C-Peptide

Sample Requirements: Serum preferred (Li/Hep plasma accepted)
Collection as for insulin
Labile, to lab within 1 hour
Minimum 0.2 mL

Transportation and Handling: Samples should be brought to the lab within 1 hour of sample collection.
Store and transport frozen.

Time limits for requesting additional examinations: 3 months from sample receipt.