

Methacholine Challenge Test

Instructions for patients

You will do this test at the Pulmonary Function Lab:

Toronto General Hospital

585 University Avenue, Norman Urquhart Building, 10th floor, room 1018

📞 Phone: 416 340 4086

What is a Methacholine challenge test?

This is a breathing test that measures how sensitive your airways are. During this test, you breathe in different levels of Methacholine. This helps us check if you have asthma, and if you do, how severe it is.

You do a Methacholine challenge test after a full pulmonary function test. Both of these tests together take about 90 minutes to complete.

How do I prepare for the test?

- Bring your health card (OHIP card) to the appointment.
- **Bring a list of all the medicines you take.**
- Don't wear any scented products. For example, don't wear perfume or lotion.
- Don't smoke for 2 hours before the test.
- **Call the lab before your appointment if you:**
 - are pregnant or nursing
 - have Myasthenia Gravis
 - had recent eye surgery
- Stop taking the medicines below for a certain time before your test, unless your doctor gave you different instructions. If you must use the medicine during that time, call your doctor's office because your test may have to be rescheduled.

Type of medicine	Examples	When to stop taking it
Short-Acting inhalers	Airomir (Salbutamol) Bricanyl (Terbutaline) Ventolin (Salbutamol)	6 hours before the test
	Atrovent (Ipratropium)	12 hours before the test

Type of medicine	Examples	When to stop taking it
Long-Acting inhalers	Advair (Salmeterol) Alupent (Orciprenaline) Breo Ellipta (Vilanterol) Brovana (Arformoterol) Foradil (Formoterol) Oxeze (Formoterol) Onbrez Breezhaler (Indacaterol) Servent (Salbutamol) Striverdi Respimat (Olodaterol) Symbicort (Formoterol) Zenhale (Formoterol)	36 hours before the test
Ultra Long Acting Muscarinic Antagonists	Incruse Ellipta, Anora Ellipta (Unmeclidinium) Spiriva, Spiriva Respimat, Inspiolto Respimat (Tiotropium) Seebri Breezhaler, Ultibro Breezhaler, Bevespi (Glycopyrronium) Tudorza Genuair, Duaklir Genuair (Aclidinium)	72 hours before the test
Anti-IgE Therapy	Omalizumab (Xolair)	6 weeks before the test