

CELIAC SPECIFIC TESTS



There are a variety of tests that your doctor may order. Here are some of the most common ones explained:

Total IgA

- 1 The total IgA test measures the blood level of immunoglobulin A, an antibody produced by the immune system. An antibody "tags" invaders for the immune system. In celiac disease these antibodies are usually high. However, it can also be used to detect IgA deficiency, and in that case you may have to test your IgG antibodies to look for celiac disease.

tTG-IgA & IgG

- 2 The tTG - or *anti-tissue transglutaminase* measures the blood levels of tTG antibodies. These antibodies attack the tissue transglutaminase enzyme in the intestine in response to gluten ingestion in those with celiac disease. This test can be used to look for celiac disease, or to check for dietary compliance. The tTG-IgG can be used in place of the tTG-IgA if you are deficient in IgA antibodies.

IgA-EMA

- 3 The IgA EMA - or *anti-endomysial antibody* is a blood test measuring endomysial antibodies. These antibodies are produced in response to gluten ingestion in those with celiac disease. This test can be used to look for celiac disease, or to check for compliance to the gluten-free diet.

DGP-IgA & IgG

- 4 The DGP test or *deamidated gliadin peptide* is a blood test that measures the the antibodies that your immune system makes in response to gluten. This test can be used to look for celiac disease, or to check for compliance to the gluten-free diet.

AGA - IgA & IgG

- 5 The AGA test or anti-gliadin antibody test is a blood test that measures the antibodies that your immune system makes in response to gluten ingestion. This test can be used to look for celiac disease, or to check for compliance to the gluten-free diet.

GENETIC TESTING

- 6 A genetic test can be done to look for genes associated with celiac disease specifically HLA DQ 2 & 8. However, it can only be used to rule out celiac disease not diagnose it. You can still have the gene and not have celiac disease. Less than 5% of those with a celiac-related gene develop celiac disease.

ENDOSCOPY WITH BIOPSY

- 7 An endoscopy of the small intestine, is where a scope with a small camera on the end is passed down the mouth, esophagus, stomach and into the small intestine to look for damage and inflammation and to take tiny samples to look at under a microscope. An endoscopy is considered the "gold standard" for diagnosing celiac disease.

