



**Lifespan Physician Group, Inc.**

Gastroenterology

*Delivering health with care.®*

**Lactose Malabsorption Test**  
**Patient Instructions**

**\*Please bring photo identification and a list of ALL your medications and dosages.**

**Test Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Appointment Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM

You will have your test at: **Women's Medicine Collaborative**  
**146 West River Street, Providence, RI 02904**  
**3rd Floor, Suite 11-D**

**What is this test?**

This test is a Hydrogen Breath Test to determine if you have an intolerance to lactose (a natural sugar found in milk and dairy products). The breath test sample will be analyzed for hydrogen content to determine if your body is able to properly break down lactose.

**What can I expect?**

The test requires you to drink **12 ounces of whole milk which you will need to bring with you at the time of your test.** You will breathe into a machine once before drinking the milk for a baseline measurement and again every hour after drinking the milk. This test can take up to **3 hours**.

**Can I take my medication before the test?**

**Critical medicines, such as insulin and those for your heart, blood pressure, breathing, or seizures should be taken with sips of water on the morning of the test.** Non-critical medicines, including supplements should not be taken, unless your physician or nurse has instructed you otherwise.

**How do I prepare for the test?**

Please follow these instructions to ensure a successful test:

**2 WEEKS BEFORE TEST**

You must be off all antibiotics and Pepto-Bismol.  
No colonoscopy or barium radiography testing.

**2 DAYS BEFORE TEST**

Eat a **Low Carbohydrate Diet (see next page).** The purpose of this diet is to avoid foods that may produce gas in the intestinal tract, which can cause inaccurate test results.

**12 HOURS BEFORE TEST**

Do not eat or drink anything.

**1 HOUR BEFORE TEST**

No smoking. Including smokeless tobacco and second-hand smoke for at least 1 hour before the test.  
No sleeping. No vigorous exercise.

We have magazines and you are encouraged to bring anything to occupy your time during the test.

**Please do not hesitate to call the office if you have any questions or concerns (401) 793-7080.**