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**Fccs Pretest Answers**

PATHOLOGY 6020 - YEAR 2005-2006  
ADRENAL GLAND PATHOLOGY  
Frederic Clayton, MD  
February 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10:00-11:00am

SUGGESTED READING: PATHOLOGIC BASIS OF DISEASE, 7th edition, pp 1201-1223, 8th edition pp 1133-1166

OBJECTIVES: At the end of the lecture, reading assignment, and laboratory, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the laboratory tests helpful in diagnosis of adrenal diseases
  - a. Cortisol, with diurnal variation
  - b. ACTH, ACTH stimulation test
  - c. Desamethasone suppression test
  - d. Catecholamines, VMA, metanephrine, HVA
  - e. Renin and aldosterone
  - f. Routine electrolytes (Na, K) and glucose
2. Discuss the major clinical and pathologic features of:
  - a. Congenital adrenal hyperplasia with 21-hydroxylase deficiency
  - b. Addison disease
  - c. Cushing syndrome
  - d. Ectopic ACTH syndromes
  - e. Aldosterone excess, including Conn syndrome
  - f. Catecholamine excess
4. Describe the clinical, gross and microscopic findings in adrenal:
  - a. cortical atrophy
  - b. cortical hyperplasia
  - c. cortical adenoma
  - d. cortical carcinoma
  - e. pheochromocytoma
  - f. neuroblastoma

**Adrenal anatomy and function**

1. Adrenal gland - 4-6 grams  
Adrenal cortex
  - a. glomerulosa - secretes mineralocorticoids, principally aldosterone, under the control of the renin-angiotensin mechanism along with serum potassium
  - b. fasciculata - secretes glucocorticoids, principally cortisol, under the control of ACTH from the pituitary
  - c. reticularis - secretes sex steroids
2. Adrenal medulla - chromaffin cells secrete catecholamines (norepinephrine and epinephrine).

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