



Alcohol in hair testing

Testing for alcohol levels in hair complements the rapidly expanding suite of drug testing services offered by LGC





Science for a Safer World



Why test

LGC provides an ISO17025:2017 accredited analytical testing service for the analysis of alcohol in human hair. This high-precision offering provides a reliable testing solution to identify alcohol abuse. Hair is an ideal matrix for providing a true insight into an individual's longer-term relationship with alcohol.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), chronic excessive

alcohol drinking is defined as the consumption of 60 or more grams of pure alcohol (6+ standard drinks in most countries) on at least one single occasion at least monthly.

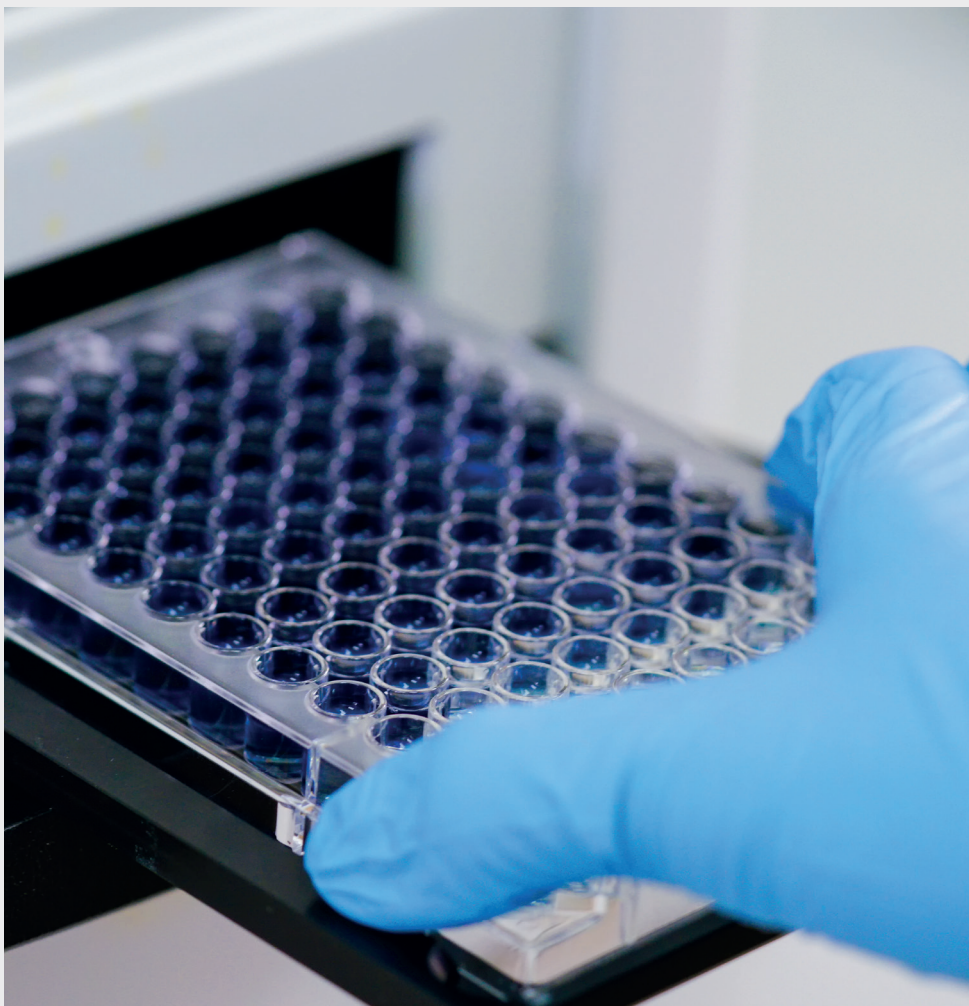
Hair analysis, in a medical-legal environment can assist with alcohol recovery programmes and aiding court decisions.

Assessment of alcohol intake in a workplace environment can be used for pre-employment checks, for-cause testing or just for routine welfare testing of your workforce. Reliable and effective testing enables you to have confidence in your employees, make informed decisions, and provide appropriate support to your employees when and if required.

This high-precision offering provides a **reliable testing solution** to identify alcohol abuse.



Testing

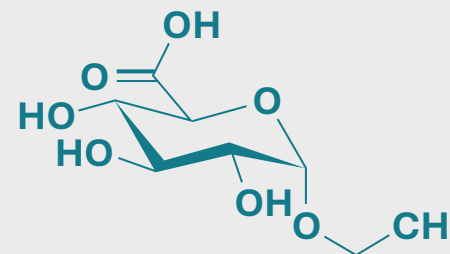


Alcohol ingestion is indicated by the presence of a minor, but highly specific, metabolite of ethanol in the hair. The metabolite is known as ethyl glucuronide (EtG); once alcohol is consumed, ethanol is metabolised in the liver via enzymatic conjugation with glucuronic acid. This metabolite will be present in sweat/sebum and will transfer along the entire length of the hair. Monitoring of ethanol itself is not recommended as it is unstable and has the potential for detection from hair products which may contain alcohol.

At LGC we extract and measure the amount of EtG present in the hair sample. The Society of Hair Testing (SoHT) and European Workplace Drug Testing Society (EWDTS) have published guidelines that equate the levels of EtG present in hair with the level of alcohol ingestion; abstinence, moderate use and chronic abuse.

ETHYL GLUCURONIDE

EtG is recognised as a reliable sole marker for alcohol ingestion.



Some providers also determine levels of fatty acid ethyl esters (FAEES). However, FAEES are unreliable markers for alcohol consumption and can increase with the use of commonly used hair products; such as waxes and hairspray. This can lead to the reporting of a false positive which will have catastrophic ramifications, or a negative EtG result and a positive FAEE result leading to confusion for the customer.

At LGC we extract and **measure the amount of EtG present** in the hair sample.

A platinum-level testing service as standard

Customers will receive a first-class experience.

All testing is conducted in the UK at our world-class facilities located in Fordham, Cambridgeshire. All methodologies have undergone rigorous validation and are ISO/IEC17025:2017 compliant (accredited by UKAS). By ensuring we meet the highest standards of quality and compliance you can be confident in the accuracy and reliability of every result.

Testing utilises advanced LC-MS analysis techniques, ensuring unequivocal identification with 100% accuracy which provides you with complete peace of mind. All data generated is of legally defensible quality and thoroughly reviewed by our team of expert scientists. Results are typically available within five working days from the date of receipt at the laboratory.

COLLECTION

LGC supply hair collection kits with clear step-by-step instructions. Kits are tamper-evident and samples can be stored and transported at ambient temperature using standard postal

services. Paperwork is quick and simple to complete and includes all necessary consent acknowledgements.

TESTING TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

We recognise that every customer is different and therefore offer fully customisable testing programmes, let our experts discuss your exact requirements with you. Drugs of abuse testing can be undertaken as a standalone service or in conjunction with other drugs of abuse in hair testing options.

We offer testing for many classes of drugs of abuse in hair, including:

- Amphetamines
- Opiates
- Cannabis
- Cocaine

LGC supply hair collection kits with clear step-by-step instructions.



Other services



We also offer additional accredited testing services*, including:

- Drugs of abuse in human hair testing (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Systematic toxicology analysis (STA) in human blood and urine. Includes new psychoactive substance (NPS) and related substances testing in human blood and urine (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Analysis for Coroner Medical Investigation, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Anabolic steroid analysis in human urine (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Analysis for Coroner Medical Investigation, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Drugs of abuse in human fingerprints (Medical and Legal Analysis, and Workplace Drug Analysis)
- Confirmatory analysis for drugs of abuse in human urine (Workplace Drug Analysis)

*UKAS laboratory ref: 1187, www.ukas.com

LGC – The laboratory you can trust

We are a global leader in life science tools. Partnering with customers to find solutions that diagnose, treat, feed and protect our growing population. Working collaboratively with our partners in the scientific community, our products and services help to solve some of the most complex challenges facing society.

LGC, headquartered in the UK, boasts a heritage of over 180 years. The Cambridgeshire laboratory has been operational since 1963 and is internationally recognised for its expertise in equine drug surveillance. Today, with a team of more than 100 highly skilled scientists, this laboratory leads the field in equine sports testing, human drug

testing and nutritional supplement testing. We employ industry-leading experts who are driving innovation and compliance across all areas. Their work is pivotal in ensuring that integrity, fairness and safety is maintained.

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Get in touch

For further information on any testing services,
or to discuss bespoke requirements, please
contact us at **info@lgcgroup.com**,
quoting SSAS in the subject line.