

Sucrose use for your baby

Information for parents and carers

This information leaflet explains why and how we give your baby sucrose solution. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the nurse or doctor caring for your child.

Confirming your child's identity

Before your child has a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you to confirm their name and date of birth and check their ID band. If your child does not have an ID band, we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is sucrose?

Sucrose solution is a liquid containing sugar (24%). When babies come into hospital they sometimes need to have procedures that cause them to be uncomfortable, distressed or in pain. We use sucrose solution to help reduce this.

How does sucrose work?

Sucking the sugary liquid is thought to release natural chemicals that help to relieve pain. We use sucrose for different types of tests, including blood tests and cannula insertion.

Consent

We must by law obtain your written consent to any operation and some other procedures beforehand. Staff will explain the risks, benefits and alternatives before they ask you to sign the consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the procedure or treatment proposed, please do not hesitate to speak with a senior member of staff again.

How will the sucrose solution be given?

We will give your baby specially made sucrose solution immediately before and during the procedure. We drop it on their dummy or straight into their mouth.

Is sucrose solution safe?

Sucrose solution is not a drug and is completely safe for your baby. We can use the solution as many times as required for the hospital procedure, but it should not be used at home.

Are there any alternatives?

Breastfeeding during a stressful, uncomfortable or painful procedure can help comfort your baby and divert attention away from the pain.

If you have any questions to ask the medical staff about sucrose, you can use this space below to remind you:

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS:

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

PALS at Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington, Kent, BR6 8ND

Tel: 01689 863252

Email: kch-tr.palspruh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.