

# DAY ADMISSION FOR MRI OF THE BRAIN OR OTHER INVESTIGATION

Your baby has been admitted to the Centre for Newborn Care for an MRI of the brain or other investigation. Some of these investigations require that your baby be sedated in which case they will need to be observed for some time after the procedure. MRI scans and many investigations take at least 20 minutes. During this time your baby needs to be very still ensuring the pictures taken are not blurred. This will allow the radiologist to make sense of what they see on the films. To enable babies to stay still during these investigations we provide them with some sedation so they sleep deeply and do not move. The sedating drug we use is chloral hydrate.

## **Is chloral hydrate safe?**

Chloral hydrate is a sedative that has been used safely in infants and children for many years. The few side effects include over sedation, excitement, headache, nausea and vomiting.

## **What will happen during our stay?**

Chloral hydrate works best if your baby is due for a sleep and has just had a feed. Ideally your baby should have not fed for 3 hours before the procedure time so that they are due for a feed and sleep. Your child will then be given a dose of chloral hydrate about half an hour before the procedure. This is often best given via a naso-gastric tube (a tube placed down the nose into the stomach) as it has a slightly bitter taste and may cause vomiting. After the chloral hydrate has been given your baby will be given a breast/bottle/gavage feed of milk to facilitate sedation.

Your baby will be monitored using pulse oximetry (a probe placed on a finger or toe) and regularly observed to ensure that your baby continues to breathe well following sedation.

## **Will we have to stay after the procedure?**

Your infant/child will need to be observed for 3-6 hours following sedation until they have woken successfully and fed again. If your baby did not require sedation you will be able to go straight home after returning to the Centre for Newborn Care.

## **When will we get the results of the investigations?**

We will try and tell you the results of the investigations before you go home. However, this may not always be possible as the radiology staff may not have reported the investigation findings, or we may wish to discuss the films (pictures) at a meeting with a number of medical and radiology staff. If we cannot provide you with the results of the investigations prior to your going home, we will arrange for one of the Consultant Neonatologists to telephone you with the results in the week following the investigations. A meeting can be arranged if you wish to discuss the results further.

If you have any further questions please ask the medical or nursing staff.