

Further information

Information on who to contact, ie web sites / telephone numbers of other departments / organisations which may be of help.

How to contact us

Department of Paediatrics

Watford General Hospital

Tel: 01442 287028

NHS

West Hertfordshire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



A guide to...

Home glucose testing for neonates on Diazoxide

If you need this leaflet in another language,
large print, Braille or audio version,
please call **01923 217 187**
or email westherts.pals@nhs.net



Patient information

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Background

Diazoxide is used to treat persistently low blood glucose levels (hypoglycaemia) caused by the body producing too much insulin ([hyperinsulinism](#)). It works by blocking the release of insulin by the body through its action on the potassium channels in the beta cells of the pancreas. It is given in combination with Chlorothiazide, which is a diuretic, as a side effect of the Diazoxide is fluid retention. Another side effect of Diazoxide is hirsutism which leads to fine hair growth on the face, trunk and limbs. Both these side effects are reversible when the diazoxide medication is stopped.

Aim

The management aim is for the baby to be discharged home on a normal glucose content formula feed or breast feeding. Feeding may be on demand but there should be no longer than a four-hour time interval between the start of feeds until outpatient review.

Discharge safety and stable glycaemic control must be assessed by the baby tolerating a 6 hour fast prior to discharge without drop in blood glucose levels below 3.5 mmol/L.

- If baby is lethargic or sleepy, not waking for feeds
- If parents are concerned about the baby
- If there have been TWO blood sugar reading during a 24-hour period of <3 mmol/L

**BRING BABY TO THE CHILDREN'S
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW**

Feeding

Feed on demand but do not allow more than a 4-hour interval between feeds

Blood Sugar Testing

- Then perform **1 routine test daily** (before the first feed of the morning) unless clinical concerns.

Blood Glucose (Sugar) Levels

- If the **Blood sugar is >3.5mmol/L** , feed as usual
- If the **blood sugar is between 3-3.5mmol/L** feed immediately and test again 1 hour after start of feed
- If **the blood sugar is <3mmol/L** give 5g glucogel (1/5 of a 25g tube or 1/2 of a 10g tube – depending what size tube you have been given) and test again in 15 minutes
 - If blood sugar is still <3mmol/L give a further 5g glucogel again and test in 15 min
 - If blood sugar remains <3 mmol/L, call an emergency ambulance on 999 and attend the Children's Emergency Department (CED)
- If **blood sugar levels are >6mmol/L** on TWO out of SEVEN days, then seek medical advice by telephone to the Metabolic/Endocrine Consultant, Tel: 01442 287028.

**IF NO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED WITHIN 48 HOURS,
THEN CONTACT YOUR GP WHO CAN DISCUSS WITH
THE ATTENDING PAEDIATRIC CONSULTANT**