



NEonatal Seizure Treatment with Medication Off-patent

Information leaflet

Neonatal seizures and HIE (hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy)

Your baby showed signs of stress at delivery and may have needed some resuscitation. This means we will need to watch them closely in the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) of your hospital.

A small number of babies show signs of stress at delivery. The nurses and doctors caring for the baby may need to help them to breathe, and to cry. Sometimes this stress is a sign that the baby suffered a lack of oxygen or blood supply before their birth.

Most of these babies do very well once they are resuscitated, but they may need to be observed in the Special Care Baby Unit for a day or two. However, some babies will need extra care and support for several days, and some may become very unwell.

The biggest worry for the doctors caring for these babies is that the brain and other organs may have suffered from a lack of blood supply or oxygen. This can cause the baby to be irritable, or be very sleepy during the first few days. This can be due to some swelling in the baby's brain. This is called hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy or HIE.

Some babies with HIE can have seizures (fits or convulsions) in the first one to three days after birth. These are called neonatal seizures. We know that many babies who have neonatal seizures will have long-term problems. These problems may be in their movement, speech, hearing or learning. These problems can be mild or more severe.

A baby who has neonatal seizures may need several different medicines to control these seizures. The babies with short seizures, which can be stopped quickly using medication, seem to do better. However, the medicines we use in babies with neonatal seizures only work some of the time.

Unlike adults, newborn babies will often remain still and do not jerk during their seizures. The only way that we can monitor their seizures is by measuring their brainwaves, using electroencephalography, or EEG. EEG is often used by doctors to monitor babies who are at risk of seizures.

The doctors in your hospital are involved in a research study to try to find new ways of treating neonatal seizures. This study is called the NEMO study and is taking place in many hospitals all over Europe. If your baby starts to have neonatal seizures the doctors involved in the study will give you more information about the NEMO study.

Information on support or information groups should be inserted here