

Glucose and Lactate Profile

This leaflet will help to explain what to expect when your child attends Temple Street Children's University Hospital for a glucose and lactate profile.

What is a Glucose and Lactate Profile?

A Glucose and Lactate profile is one of a number of tests requested by your child's doctor in the Inherited Metabolic Disorders Unit. Glucose and lactate are fuels we need in our body to give us energy. Your child may have been sent to see the metabolic specialist for a number of different reasons. This is a test to look at the glucose and lactate levels over 24 hours. The test can show if your child is breaking down and absorbing food in a normal way. It is also a test performed regularly for children who have problems keeping their blood sugar (glucose) normal because they have been diagnosed with a disorder that affects their blood sugar levels.

What is involved in the test?

A date for the test will be arranged and will be sent to you by post. Your child will be admitted to hospital for 24 hours or longer if other tests have to be done. When you arrive, you will meet your child's doctor who will explain the test and ask you to sign a consent form. It is important to tell the doctor all the medication your child may be taking and any allergies he/she may have.

Your child will have their glucose and lactate level checked for 24 hours. This involves pricking a finger and filling a little tube with blood which will be tested on the ward. Children under 1 year will have the blood sample taken from the side of the heel and children over 1 year from the sides of their fingers. Sometimes the pricking of the finger is too stressful, which can affect the blood lactate result and so your child may have a cannula (straw) put into a vein. A cannula allows blood samples to be obtained more easily.

The levels are done before meals (including drinks) and an hour and a half after finishing meals (including drinks). Because of this, it is important to tell the nurse when your child has finished eating their meal. In between meals, your child will be allowed to drink plain water.

Failure to follow these instructions will affect the results of the test. Your child will be allowed to have what they would normally eat or drink during the day and at night before they sleep. They will usually be allowed to drink water only during the night depending on their age. Your child's levels will be checked every 4 hours during the night. Small babies will be allowed to continue with their normal feeding routine.

Depending on what tests your child will be having the next morning, they may have to fast from around 5 am, which means they can have their breakfast / bottle at this time.

What happens when the test is finished?

When your child is discharged home, you will be given an appointment for the Outpatient's Department.

It is always a good idea to write down any questions you may have so that you are clear about the testing.

If you have any questions when you go home, you can contact the Metabolic Outpatients Department to speak to a specialised doctor, nurse or dietitian

Monday – Thursday 8.30am- 4.30pm Friday 8.30am - 2pm
01 8784317



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