



Information for
patients and
carers

**Babies at risk of an overactive
thyroid gland**

Babies at risk of an overactive thyroid gland

If you have ever had an overactive thyroid gland (also known as thyrotoxicosis, Graves' disease or being hyperthyroid) your baby will have a small risk of having an overactive thyroid gland during his or her first few weeks of life.

This can occur even if you have previously had your thyroid gland removed, or been treated with radioactive iodine, as you will still have antibodies that can pass through the placenta into your baby during pregnancy.

What will happen when my baby is born?

Between 24 and 72 hours after birth your baby will have a detailed physical examination.

The paediatrician (baby doctor) who carries out this examination will decide what treatment, if any, your baby needs; this decision will be based on information about your current and past treatment and any recent blood tests that you have had.

There may be no need for your baby to have any treatment, remain in hospital or have any blood tests for thyroid function.

However, some babies need to be observed in hospital for the first 2 days.

They will have blood tests taken and will return to hospital when they are aged 7 to 10 days to be seen by a paediatrician. A further set of blood tests is taken at this time. If the results are satisfactory no further follow up is usually needed.

How would I know if my baby had an overactive thyroid gland?

Babies with an overactive thyroid gland may:

- Open their bowels much more frequently than other babies.
- Not gain weight as rapidly as other babies.
- Have a very fast heart rate

Your midwife will help you check for these signs and refer you to a paediatrician if necessary.

What happens if my baby's thyroid gland is overactive?

A consultant paediatrician will see you and your baby to assess whether any treatment is necessary. If required, medicine is given to your baby by mouth; it is usually only needed for a few months. It will help your baby grow and develop normally and avoid any strain on his/her heart from the very fast heartbeat.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Your midwife

Sharoe Green Unit Antenatal clinic **01772 524448**

Neonatal Unit **01772 524242**

British Thyroid Foundation **01423 709707**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.btf-thyroid.org

www.accessable.co.uk

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Cantonese:

如果你希望以另外一種格式接收該資訊，請和我們聯絡，不必猶豫。

Gujarati:

જો તમને આ માહિતી બીજી રચના કે ફોર્મેટમાં મેળવવાની ઈચ્છા હોય, તો કૃપા કરી અમારો સંપર્ક કરતા અચકાશો નહિ.

Hungarian:

Kérjük, vegye fel velünk a kapcsolatot, ha más formában kéri ezt az információt.

Polish:

Jeżeli chciał(a)by Pan/Pani otrzymać niniejsze informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt.

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਝਿਜਕੋ।

Urdu:

اگر آپ اس معلومات کو کسی اور صورت میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کرنے میں ہچکچاہٹ محسوس نہ کریں۔

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