



**Birmingham Children's Hospital
NHS Trust**

CHROMIUM E.D.T.A TEST

Parents Information Leaflet

This information leaflet is available in large print and on computer Disk (it is also available in Braille, other languages and on audio tape on request). Please contact the Child and Family Information Centre on 0121 333 8505

YOUR CHILD IS TO HAVE A CHROMIUM E.D.T.A TEST

WHAT IS THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE KIDNEYS?

Kidneys have a number of functions. Each kidney contains one million microscopic filters, which remove waste products from your body in the form of urine. The rate at which these filters remove waste products shows how efficiently the kidneys are working. Kidneys also control the amount of water in your body. When you are hot and thirsty your kidneys save water. This means that you produce less urine and this urine becomes more concentrated. If however you have had plenty of drinks your kidneys produce more urine which is dilute.

WHY DOES YOUR CHILD NEED THIS TEST?

If your child has a history of illness or injury that affected the working of the kidney, a chromium E.D.T.A test will allow the consultant to see exactly how well your child's kidneys are working.

Chromium E.D.T.A is a radioactive tracer, which is filtered by the kidneys and removed as if it was a waste product in your urine.

WHAT DOES THIS TEST CONSIST OF?

Your child will need to attend hospital as a day-case and will probably need to stay for between 4 to 6 hours. Throughout this test your child will be allowed to eat and drink as usual. You are welcome to stay with your child throughout their test. When you and your child arrive on the Medical Day Unit the nurse will measure your child's weight, height and blood pressure.

Chromium E.D.T.A needs to be given as an injection and then blood samples need to be collected at 1, 2 and 3 hours following the injection. Therefore a small tube will be placed in a vein on

the back of one of your child's hands so that the 3 blood samples can be obtained.

The chromium E.D.T.A will be given as an injection by a member of staff from the x-ray department in a second small tube placed in your child's opposite hand. This small tube can then be removed immediately.

Putting the small tubes into a child can sometimes be difficult. In order to reduce the pain of this the nurse will offer some local anaesthetic cream (we call this "magic cream") onto the back of your child's hands which will numb their skin within about 20 minutes.

Blood samples will then be taken from the remaining tube in your child's other hand 1, 2 and 3 hours after the chromium E.D.T.A injection. During this time you and your child will be able to leave the ward, but you must return at the exact time specified by the nurse. When the last blood test has been taken, the small tube will be removed from your child's hand and you will be able to return home.

Your child's consultant will discuss the results of your child's chromium E.D.T.A test and explain what these results mean in relation to how your child's kidneys are working either in the outpatient department or in a letter.

Please use this space to make extra notes or write down questions you may want to ask.

If you have any questions regarding this chromium E.D.T.A test please feel free to call Liver Direct on 0121 333 8989.

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