



**Birmingham Children's Hospital
NHS Trust**

PTC (Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiogram)

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

PTC

What is a PTC (Percutaneous Transhepatic Cholangiogram)?

This test is done under a general anaesthetic in theatre. The child is anaesthetised and with the child's breathing being controlled and the child lying on their front, a very fine flexible needle is advanced under x-ray control to a point just above the junction of the right and left hepatic ducts inside the liver. This needle can then be used to inject contrast agent into the ducts, which will then show up on special x-rays. A liver biopsy may be taken at the same time, which can be examined under a microscope over the next few days.

Why is a PTC needed?

It is usually undertaken in children who have jaundice or concerns about bile flow and is used to show the presence of stones, cysts, narrowing (stricture) and inflammation, in any part of the bile ducts.

What are the risks of a PTC?

Anaesthetics carry a risk, but they are very small. The anaesthetist is a trained doctor who is able to deal with any complication that happens under the anaesthetic. A child may feel sick and vomit, but this is very rare nowadays. Children may have a headache, sore throat, feel dizzy or maybe upset. These are usually short lived.

There is a small risk of bleeding after a PTC and this is why children are observed for up to 6 hours after the procedure. This is the period in which a bleed would show up.

There is a small chance that the site can be infected. This generally only happens if the child has an immune problem. There is a small chance of a scar similar to a chicken pox scar

may form. There is a risk of flare up of infection, which needs treating with antibiotics before and after the procedure.

What is the preparation for the PTC?

Your child will normally come to the hospital the day before the procedure. This will be to have blood tests and possibly an abdominal ultrasound. The reasons for the PTC and the consent are usually done in out patients by your consultant. Your understanding will be checked and verbal consent will be taken again and a written consent, if not previously taken. This is a good time to ask any further questions.

You will be told when to withhold food and drink. This is generally at least 6 hours for solids and milk and 3 hours for clear fluids.

The next morning a small plastic tube (a cannula) is inserted into a vein. Your child may be given a sleepy medicine to help them relax. This will be discussed with you.

What does the PTC involve?

The procedure takes place in operating theatre area. You will be allowed to accompany your child to the room. Once the test has been completed a dressing is then put on the site of the needle entry.

What happens after the PTC?

The nurse will check your child's pulse, breathing rate, blood pressure and the dressing over the site. This will be done frequently and regularly in the first few hours.

Your child will be drowsy after the procedure. When your child is fully awake they can then start to eat and drink small amounts.

When will we know the results?

The clinical registrar will usually be able to inform you of the results during the evening ward round, although it may be a number of days before a diagnosis can be discussed with you by your consultant. Any biopsy result may take longer to come back.

What care will my child need at home?

The evening after the PTC your child may feel sore around the site of the needle. Normal single doses of paracetamol can be given. Keep the site covered with a plaster overnight. You may give your child a bath the next day and remove the plaster. School or nursery can be restarted 2 days after the procedure. Your child should avoid sport or active games until they restart school.

If your child complains of continuous pain around the PTC site or generally feels unwell, then please contact the hospital and ask to speak to the Liver Unit Registrar on call by ringing 0121 333 9999. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to give us a ring.

If you have any questions or need to make any notes please write them here:





