

INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

ENTONOX



Entonox

Entonox[®] is a gas that may be offered to help your child manage his/her pain during some procedures that can be painful (e.g. changing a dressing, joint injection for arthritis, putting on a plaster cast, etc).

Entonox[®] is a colourless, sweet-smelling gas. It is a mixture of 50% Oxygen and 50% Nitrous Oxide. It provides powerful pain relief within a short time of being inhaled.

Entonox[®] can be used by children over the age of about 6 years. They must be able to understand how to breathe in (Inhale) and they must be able to hold the mouthpiece or mask without help.

There is minimal risk involved with the administration of Entonox[®] the main concern is that the gas may become trapped in the body- this only a problem if your child has specific medical conditions. Your child will be assessed to decide if is appropriate to use Entonox[®].

Entonox[®] is sometimes called `gas and air` and is administered using a demand-valve system. Your child will be shown the Entonox[®] equipment, and allowed to practice using it before the procedure starts.

Children do not have to fast to use Entonox[®] for painful procedures. Your child will be monitored throughout the procedure by the nursing staff. In most cases, a parent or guardian can be present for the procedure.

To get the best effects your child will be encouraged to start using Entonox[®] at least 2 minutes before the procedure starts, to allow time for it to work. To get the best effect your child will be encouraged to take slow deep breaths.

After breathing in the Entonox[®] your child might become slightly sleepy. This is OK. When your child is sleepy, he or she will not be able to hold the mouthpiece in his/her mouth and therefore will not breathe in Entonox[®]. This prevents your child from breathing in too much Entonox[®]. Once your child becomes more alert, he/she will be able to start inhaling the Entonox[®] again.

To ensure that your child does not breathe in too much Entonox[®], only your child should hold the mouthpiece.

Some children experience side-effects when using Entonox[®].

These include:

- **Drowsiness or light-headedness, Giddiness and changes to the voice, Dry mouth, Nausea,** all these sensations will wear off quickly once your child stops breathing in the Entonox[®].
- **Earache** - if this occurs, Entonox[®] will be stopped and nurses will give your child other painkillers.
- **An Effect on the body's stores of Vitamin B₁₂** – if a child receives Entonox[®] more frequently than every 4 days, we will monitor your child's blood count.

After using Entonox[®] the effects will wear off quickly. However, we advise that your child should remain in bed or on a trolley for at least 15 minutes. This is because Entonox[®] can sometimes make their legs feel wobbly.

Your child will also receive other painkillers before or during the procedure if this is appropriate. This is to make sure his/her pain is also controlled after the procedure.

If you have any questions about the use of Entonox[®] please talk to your child's nurse or doctor

Additional Information
