

Children's Out-Patient Department

Local anaesthetic drug challenge

Summary

The drug challenge involves testing whether your child is sensitive to a drug used in anaesthetics. The challenge will take place in the Children's Medical Day Unit on Ward 16 at University Hospital, Coventry.

If your child has a cough, cold or high temperature then please let us know before you arrive as we may have to cancel the challenge.

Challenge procedure

- A skin prick test will be carried out using the drug to be challenged. If this test is negative, the drug will be given via injections.
- The first injection dose will start at a very small amount. The dose for further injections will gradually increase until your child has had the correct dose for their age and weight.
- Your child will have 5 injections. Injections will be given just under the skin or into the top of the arm, with 30 minutes between injections.
- Your child will be observed throughout the challenge and for at least 1 hour after the last injection has been given.
- You will be in hospital for at least 4 hours.

Observations

Regular observations including heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure and oxygen saturations will be recorded half hourly.



Patient Information

During the challenge the nurse will be looking for signs of an adverse reaction which include:

Skin:	rash around the mouth, urticarial rash (hives), swelling of eye or lips
Breathing:	stridor (croup like), sneezing, wheezing, coughing
Cardiovascular:	pallor (pale skin), collapse
Gastrointestinal:	vomiting, loose stools
Neurological:	irritability

The challenge will be stopped if any of the above signs are observed and appropriate medication will be given.

Medications before the challenge day

Certain medications may interfere with the challenge test result and therefore you will need to stop administering the medication for a few days. Please see below:

- Short acting antihistamines such as: Piriton, Phenargan and Vallergan **should be stopped 2 days before the challenge day**
- Long acting antihistamines such as Cetirizine and Loratadine **should be stopped 5 days before the challenge day**
- Your child can continue on all asthma inhalers
- If your child is on any other medication please contact the Allergy nurses (**Louise Bashford, Kate Weller and Sarah Pitts**) for further advice
- If your child has required treatment for allergic reactions a few days before the challenge day then please contact the Allergy nurses to rearrange the challenge

On the day of the challenge please bring with you

- A packed lunch for you and your child
- A favourite book or toy
- Please ensure that your child is accompanied by a parent (who has parental responsibility) as we do ask for written consent

Patient Information

Contact details

Secretary to Paediatric Allergy Team:

Dr Colin MacDougall and Dr Jose Costa

Tel: 01788 663189

Allergy nurses:

Louise Bashford, Kate Weller and Sarah Pitts

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