



Northumbria Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Blood tests for children with bruising

Issued by Child Health

This leaflet has been produced to provide you with information about blood tests for children with bruising who have been seen for a child protection medical assessment.

Why is my child having a blood test?

When children have bruises, we may need to take blood to look for any medical problems that could explain the bruising.

Where are the blood tests done?

The tests will usually be done in the Children's Unit.

What happens during a blood test?

For children and infants older than 6 months we can use a local anaesthetic cream (EMLA or Ametop) or a 'cold spray' to numb the skin before the test is taken. We are not able to use these products in younger babies but we know that sucking, e.g. on a dummy, can reduce the discomfort felt and we would encourage your baby to do this during the test. We usually take blood from a child's hand or foot. We will ask you to cuddle your baby/child firmly and one of the nurses will help to hold the hand or foot to be used for the test. The doctor or nurse practitioner will then take the blood sample using a very small needle. We understand that it can be distressing for parents/carers to watch their child have a blood test and if you prefer one of the nurses can hold your child during the test.

How long will it take?

A blood test usually takes a few minutes.

How will I get the results of the blood tests?

The test results are usually available later the same day and one of the doctors looking after your child will let you know the results.

Will my child need any further blood tests?

If the tests show any abnormality, they are likely to need to be repeated and we may also need to take blood samples for additional tests. If this is the case, we will explain what we are doing and why further tests are needed.

If you have any further questions about these tests, please ask the doctor caring for your child.

Alternative Formats

If you would like a copy of this information in large print, another language, audio tape or other format please call the Contact Centre on **03 44 811 8118**

Other sources of information

NHS 111

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx

NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

www.nice.org.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Freephone: **0800 032 0202**

Text: 01670 511098

Email: northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General Enquiries **03 44 811 8111**

www.northumbria.nhs.uk

PIN 707/V2

Review date: December 2021

© This material is the copyright of the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust