



Cerebral Function Monitoring (CFM)

Parent Information



This information leaflet was designed and produced by the East Midlands Neonatal Operational Delivery Network.

For further information on what we do, please visit our website; www.emnodn.nhs.uk

Your doctor will have explained the use of Cerebral Function Monitoring (CFM) to you and this leaflet summarises the information.

What is a cerebral function monitor?

A Cerebral Function Monitor (CFM) is a special bedside monitor which records brain activity continuously.

Why does my baby need to have Cerebral Function Monitoring?

The doctors treating your baby consider that it may be helpful to monitor your baby's brain function more closely as part of their observations. This may be for one of several reasons;

- They are concerned about a lack of oxygen at the time of birth
- They think that your baby may be having seizures (also known as fits or convulsions)
- They think that he/she is at risk of having a seizure

This close monitoring often helps medical staff to see if your baby is having any abnormal electrical brain activity, such as seizures.

It also helps in demonstrating if your baby is responding to any treatments that he/she has been given, or if any treatment such as medication is needed.

What does it involve?

Several thin wires (electrodes) will be placed onto the scalp. These will then be secured by using either a gel sticker or by placing a very fine needle just under the skin. They will then be kept in place using either a special tape, glue, or band. Once they are in place they will then be connected to the CFM monitor.



If the fine needles are placed under the skin, then your baby may be given some sucrose (sugar solution) which will ensure that the process will not be uncomfortable for him/her.

Once the electrodes are secured in place they will record the electrical activity in the brain and will not be painful or uncomfortable for your baby.

How long will my baby need to be monitored?

Your baby will usually be monitored for 12-24 hours. This may be longer if the medical team caring for your baby think that it may help towards his/her treatment or diagnosis. If your baby needs any special treatments, such as cooling or medication, then the monitoring may continue for a few days.

Are there any risks for my baby?

There are no known risks to your baby from this form of monitoring.

Further information

If you would like any further explanation, please speak to a member of staff on the neonatal unit.