



BASE



Introduction to the BASE Study

The BASE study is looking at whether or not to give sodium bicarbonate when a premature baby has a condition called metabolic acidosis.

By doing this study, it will also help us understand whether doctors and nurses can collect the information needed and provide care as planned, and whether future research in this area is possible.

What is metabolic acidosis?

Metabolic acidosis is a build-up of acid in the blood. Many babies that are born very prematurely will experience metabolic acidosis during their hospital stay.

The use of sodium bicarbonate for metabolic acidosis

A drug called sodium bicarbonate is often used when a baby has metabolic acidosis. Some doctors believe that giving sodium bicarbonate lowers acid levels in the blood and helps the working of the heart, but others believe sodium bicarbonate raises acid levels inside the cells of the body which can affect blood flow to the brain and other organs in the body.

Both giving and not giving sodium bicarbonate when a baby has metabolic acidosis is standard care and varies between different hospitals around the UK. The reason practice differs widely is because the use of sodium bicarbonate to treat metabolic acidosis in preterm babies has never been properly studied.

Your baby's involvement

Parents of babies eligible to participate in the BASE study will be asked whether or not they would like their baby to be included in the study and their decision recorded in their baby's medical record and Investigator Site File (ISF).

All babies taking part will be put into one of two groups:

- To routinely be given sodium bicarbonate when they have



metabolic acidosis

- To not routinely be given sodium bicarbonate when they have metabolic acidosis

Your participation

We will collect most of the data we need directly from your baby's hospital record.

Further information

For further information about the study, please see the Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any questions please ask a member of the neonatal team, or you can contact the BASE study team at **base@npeu.ox.ac.uk**.

The BASE Study Team

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