

Pain Service

Signs to look out for after an epidural infusion for pain relief

Information for parents and carers



Signs to look out for after an epidural for pain relief

The epidural was removed on

Your child has had an epidural infusion for pain relief after their operation.

Although it is very unusual for anyone to have any problems after an epidural infusion for pain relief, there are a few serious complications that can develop. These are classed as rare; affecting only 1 in 10,000 people.

The epidural space where the epidural infusion is given is close to the spinal cord. If a collection of pus (an abscess) or blood clot was to form in this area it could cause pressure on the spinal cord. It is very important to diagnose and treat these problems as quickly as possible, to prevent long-lasting damage.

Over the next month you need to watch your child for any of the signs listed below:

- new or worsening back pain
- high temperature or neck stiffness
- numbness, weakness or any change to sensation in their legs
- not being able to pass urine or control their bowels
- a new or different headache, which is worse when sitting or standing up
- redness, tenderness and discharge from the epidural site on your child's back.

If you think your child has any of the signs listed above, please take them to your nearest accident and emergency department (A&E) immediately. Tell the doctor that they have recently had an epidural.

For non-urgent advice

If any medical staff treating your child have questions about the treatment we have given, they can contact us at the Inpatient Service.

John Radcliffe Hospital

Tel: **01865 220 284** or **01865 741 166**
ask to Bleep 1400 or **1362**

Churchill Hospital

Tel: **01865 225 403** or **01865 741 841**
ask to Bleep 4375

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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