

## INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

### **Study title: Amino acid regimen and intravenous lipid composition in preterm parenteral nutrition: a randomised controlled trial of Nutritional Evaluation and Optimisation in Neonates (NEON)**

#### **Invitation to participate**

We would like to invite you to consider giving your consent to include your baby in a research study. Please take time to read this information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. A member of our team will go through the information sheet with you. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

#### **What is the purpose of the study?**

Extremely preterm infants (born less than 31 weeks of gestation) spend several weeks and months in hospital. Feeding babies born so early is difficult. By the time they reach their due date their weight is typically about 1 kg (2 lbs) less than that of a full-term healthy baby.

Food is initially provided as a fluid called parenteral nutrition (PN) that is given into a vein. As extremely preterm babies may have other medical problems, traditionally, the amount of nutrition provided in PN has been gradually increased in a cautious, stepwise manner. This means that it can take several days to reach the full recommended nutritional intake to enable them to grow.

Though necessary, PN has complications, especially if used for several weeks. One complication is damage to the liver. The type of fat used in PN may affect this.

Recent studies have shown that giving preterm babies the recommended amount of nutrition straight away without the stepwise approach, and using a new type of fat (SMOF lipid) that contains soybean oil, olive and fish oil rather than the fat we currently use (Intralipid) which has soybean oil alone is safe. Although these approaches to feeding are used by doctors in day to day practice, we do not know for sure if one has benefit over the other in preterm babies. Before this can be introduced into everyday practice as recommendation we need to make sure this approach is beneficial.

The purpose of this study is to improve the growth and health of preterm babies. We will do this by:

- 1) comparing "immediate" introduction of Parenteral Nutrition with "stepwise" introduction
- 2) comparing the currently used fat in PN, with a newer type of fat that we hope is less harmful to the liver.

#### **Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited because your baby has been born prematurely (at less than 31 weeks of gestation) and needs Parenteral Nutrition.

#### **Does my baby have to take part?**

It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not you wish your baby to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form, a copy of which will be given to you. If you decide to take part

you are still free to withdraw your baby from the study at any time and without giving a reason. We would ask that you allow us to use any information collected up to that point. A decision not to take part will not affect the standard of care that your baby receives.

### **What will the study involve?**

We will be enrolling 128 babies into this study. Babies will receive one of four different combinations of parenteral nutrition treatment.

Group 1: Stepwise introduction of PN and currently used fat

Group 2: Stepwise introduction of PN and newer lipid

Group 3: Immediate introduction of PN and currently used fat

Group 4: Immediate introduction of PN and newer lipid

The process of allocating which treatment a baby receives is done by 'randomisation'.

Randomisation means that a specially designed computer programme will determine the choice. There is a 50% chance that your baby will receive either type of treatment (like tossing a coin). Randomisation is done in order to ensure that every baby has the same chance of receiving either one or the other treatment. We will not know which treatment your baby receives until the end of the study. This is to prevent any bias in the results of the study.

Your baby will start milk feeds and the study PN within 24 hours as is normal practice. We recommend you provide your own expressed breast milk to your baby. When your baby is tolerating milk feeds well and no longer requires PN this will be stopped. We will collect the following information on your baby:

#### Routinely collected information

This is collected for any baby receiving care on a neonatal unit. This includes measurement of growth, recording the amount of nutrition (milk or PN) a baby receives and blood tests that show the effect of nutrition on the body.

#### Information collected for research

This is information that will be collected in addition to routine tests and information. The blood tests will be done at the same time as other routine blood tests and after the tests are done the samples will be destroyed. The samples will be labelled with a unique trial identification number.

The following additional tests will be done:

1. We will take 3 drops of blood in the first week, and additionally, once a week during your baby's stay in hospital, we will collect a few drops of urine (10 drops) and stool from the nappy to measure metabolite levels. The test uses a new technique called magnetic resonance (a method that uses a magnetic field) which allows a large number of metabolites (waste products of food) to be measured in very small quantities of blood or urine.
2. If your baby is born at Chelsea and Westminster hospital, we will take a few drops of blood (0.5 – 1 ml) to measure the type of fat present in the blood on the first and fifth day after birth.
3. When your baby reaches his /her due date we will take a few drops (1ml) of blood to measure sugar, insulin and metabolite levels.

4. In order to determine the results of the treatments on the development of the body, brain and liver, we will arrange a magnetic resonance (MR) scan to obtain pictures of your baby's body and brain. This will be done when your baby has reached his or her due date and has gone home. We will give you more information about this nearer the time of this scan.

Other than the MR scans the study samples may not be taken if your baby is transferred to another hospital. If this is the case we will take a sample of urine when your baby has the MR scan.

After your baby has had his or her scan, involvement in this study will end. Your baby will continue to receive routine care and follow up. If you agree, we may contact you about future research studies looking at how nutrition affects babies in later life.

### **Expenses and payments**

The MR scan is done at the Hammersmith Hospital where we will ask you to come for a morning or an afternoon. We will arrange for a taxi or reimburse your travel and parking costs.

### **What are the alternatives for diagnosis or treatment?**

If you choose not to enter your baby in to the study then your baby will receive standard care which will include PN. It is not routine practice to do MR scanning of the body, liver or brain.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Parenteral nutrition (PN) is usually unavoidable for extremely preterm infants. The benefits of PN in neonatal intensive care are believed to outweigh the risks. The additional risk from using "immediate" PN from day one is minimal. Previous studies have not shown an increase in complications. SMOF lipid has been used in other studies and is often used in preterm infants receiving prolonged PN.

You will need to travel to the Hammersmith Hospital after discharge for the MR scans. They are not being carried out for clinical diagnosis but there is a possibility that they might show something unexpected. If this occurs, a senior doctor will explain this to you and notify your GP, and discuss whether any further action is necessary.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

As we do not know if one treatment has benefit over the other there is no direct benefit to your baby. By following a standardised approach to milk feeding as in this study, there may be benefits to your baby. However, the information we obtain from this study may help us to improve nutrition of preterm babies in the future.

### **What if there is a problem?**

All the treatments used in this study are currently used in day to day practice and it is not anticipated that there will be problems related directly to the study. As with all studies, Imperial College London holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If your baby experiences harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you may be eligible to claim compensation without having to prove that Imperial College is at fault. This does not affect your legal rights to seek compensation.

If your baby is harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study then you should immediately inform the Investigator ([Insert name and contact](#)

[details](#)). The normal National Health Service complaint mechanisms are also available to you. If you are still not satisfied with the response, you may contact the Imperial AHSC Joint Research Office.

**Will my baby's taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about your baby during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, and any information about your baby which leaves the hospital will have your baby's name and address removed so that he /she cannot be recognised. They may be looked at by authorised people to check that the study is being carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to your baby as a research participant and we will do our best to meet this duty.

**What if relevant new information becomes available?**

Sometimes we get new information about the treatment being studied. If this happens, your research doctor will tell you and discuss your baby's options.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

We will publish the results in a scientific journal. No participant will be identified in any publication. We will send a letter summarising the results to the parents of the babies who took part. At this stage should you wish to know which group your baby was in we would be happy to provide you this information.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is being organised by Imperial College London. The study is being funded by the Efficacy and Mechanism Programme of the National Institute for Health Research.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been reviewed by independent doctors, specialists and parent representatives. All research in the NHS is looked at by independent group of people, called a National Research Ethics Committee, to protect the interests of participants. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Hammersmith Hospital Research Ethics Committee

**Further information and contact details**

If you would like further information about the study please contact

[Insert local PI details.](#)

Nutritional Evaluation and Optimisation in Neonates Study: the NEON study.

Version 4: 28 Oct 2010

**Nutritional Evaluation and Optimisation in Neonates Study: The NEON Study:**

**Information Sheet for parents on the Magnetic Resonance Scan:**

We thank you for including your baby in the Nutritional Evaluation and Optimisation in Neonates (NEON) Study. This information sheet gives you additional information about the magnetic resonance (MR) scan which is the final part of this study.

As your baby is now preparing to go home we are in a position to arrange the MR scan which will look at how the body, brain and liver have developed. The results of this scan will be compared between the babies who have received different treatments in order to see whether or not one treatment has any benefits over the other. The scan will be done within roughly 2 weeks of your baby going home.

You will need to travel to the Hammersmith Hospital for this scan. We will arrange transport for you and your baby to and from the hospital or reimburse you for parking if you choose to drive yourself.

MR imaging is a technique widely used in infants and we have studied several hundred infants with MR. A MR scanner uses a magnet to take detailed pictures of the body and brain and measures the amount of fat in the liver.

The scan is carried out whilst your baby is in natural sleep without the use of sedatives. The scan normally takes no more than 40 minutes but sometimes additional time is required to settle a baby. You are welcome to be in the adjacent control room and watch your baby during the scan. During the scan your baby will be under the care of a doctor. As the MR scanner makes some noise we use baby ear muffs to protect your baby's ears. After the scan is complete we will measure your baby's growth and blood pressure.

We will be happy to show you the pictures taken of your baby. The scan is not being carried out for clinical diagnosis but there is a possibility that they might show something unexpected. If this occurs, a senior doctor will explain this to you and notify your GP, and discuss whether any further action is necessary. The brain scan however will be reported and the results will be sent to your baby's doctor who will be able to discuss this with you.

**CONSENT FORM FOR PARENTS**  
**Version 2 dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Study title:** Amino acid regimen and intravenous lipid composition in preterm parenteral nutrition: a randomised controlled trial of Nutritional Evaluation and Optimisation in Neonates (NEON)

**Patient's name and hospital sticker**

**The parent should complete this sheet himself or herself.**

Please initial boxes

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the parents information sheet dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 (version 4) for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.
  
2. I understand that I am free to withdraw my baby from the study at any time without giving any reason, without my baby's medical care or legal rights being affected.
  
3. I understand that relevant sections of any of my baby's medical notes and data collected during the study may be looked at by responsible individuals from the Clinical Trials and Evaluation Unit or staff from regulatory authorities where it is relevant to my baby taking part in research; I give permission for these individuals to have access to my baby's records.
  
4. I understand that routine information about my baby's care may be collected for the purposes of the study if my baby is transferred to another hospital prior to discharge home. I agree to this information being collected.
  
5. I agree to be contacted in the future to be informed about follow up studies that may take place.
  
6. I agree to my baby being included in the above study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Relationship to patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(INVESTIGATOR'S NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS) \_\_\_\_\_