

Any further questions?

If you have any questions please ask your baby's nurse or the medical team.

Dyson Centre for Neonatal Care: 01225 824438

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG
01225 428331 www.ruh.nhs.uk

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net or telephone 01225 825656 / 826319.

Your baby's Inguinal Hernia

Dyson Centre for Neonatal Care



Your baby's inguinal hernia

What is an inguinal hernia and what causes them?

An Inguinal hernia is quite common; they are present in around one in six premature babies. We don't know why this happens in some babies and not in others. They happen because of a small hole developing in the muscle in the baby's groin. Some intestine can then move through the hole and will feel like a lump under the skin. Usually the intestine moves in and out through the hole quite easily. Sometimes the intestine may get stuck in the hernia/hole leading to blockage of, and possibly damage to, the intestine or to the blood vessels to the testicle. In about half of baby girls the ovary can be felt in the hernia and there is a risk that the ovary can become twisted. If this happens the hernia will be very tender and emergency surgery may be needed as the intestine, testicle or ovary may be damaged.

Can an inguinal hernia be prevented?

There is no known way of preventing inguinal hernias.

How are inguinal hernias treated?

We will have referred your baby to the surgeons at the Royal Bristol Children's Hospital. This is why we are providing you with this information because your baby will need a surgical operation to resolve this condition. The appointment may take a couple of months to come through.

Will my baby be in pain?

Your baby should not be in pain unless there is a problem with the hernia; you will need to take them to a doctor straight away.

While your baby is waiting for surgery

It is important to check the hernia(s) every time the nappy is changed.

If it is becoming red or tender or discoloured then you need to come to hospital.

Please bring your baby to the Emergency Department
or

call the Paediatric Assessment Unit on 01225 824421.