

When Entonox is Not Used

Entonox will not be used in the following circumstances:

- If your child is not able to understand or cooperate with instruction on how to use the gas
- If your child has had a recent head injury
- If your child had recent ear surgery or a collapsed lung / pneumothorax
- If your child was recently on an underwater dive

How Long Will It Take To Recover ?

The gas is very short acting. It will take 2-3 minutes to get it out of your child's system.

However some children feel a little light headed for several minutes afterwards, so he / she will be given as much time as necessary to recover.

Questions

If you have any questions you would like to ask about entonox before your child is given the gas please ask the nurse looking after your child.

The Pain Nurse Specialist may visit your child between Monday - Friday while they are using entonox, please feel free to ask them any questions you may have.



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Drawings provided by children associated with the hospital

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Entonox



Information for Patients, Parents and Carers

Pain Control Team

Main Hospital Number

01 878 4200

Bleep 830

What is Entonox ?

Entonox is a gas which is made up of a mixture of

- 50% Nitrous Oxide
- 50% Oxygen

It is a pain relieving gas which can help your child to relax when anxious. You may have heard of it referred to as "Laughing Gas" or "Gas and Air".

When is it Used ?

Entonox can be used to relieve pain or anxiety during a short, uncomfortable procedure.



How is Entonox Given ?

Entonox is given by placing a disposable mouthpiece or face mask in your child's mouth. The mouthpiece is attached to a gas cylinder.

As your child breathes in, the gas will be absorbed into their body. The level of gas will remain steady as they continue to breathe during their procedure. The constant level of gas will provide pain relief for as long it is needed.

How Long Does it Take to Work ?

When used properly your child will feel the effect of the gas after 1 minute. It will take a number of minutes of use for the full effect to be achieved.

It is important that your child continues to breathe slowly and steadily during the procedure to maintain the full effect of the gas.



Who Will Supervise My Child ?

A nurse trained in the use of entonox will remain with your child while he/she uses the gas. Your child will be shown how to use the mouth piece and encouraged to breathe slowly and steadily.

Your child will control how often they wish to use the gas and they can take the mouth piece off at any stage.

Your child will be monitored at all times as they use the entonox and until they are talking normally.

Can My Child Receive Other Types of Painkillers ?

Yes, your child will be given painkillers as normal.

What Are the Benefits of Entonox ?

Entonox is quickly cleared from your child's body with no lasting effect. Once the gas has been stopped your child will not be sleepy, but some children may feel a little light headed for a short period.

Because your child has control over when they use the gas they may feel less anxious.

What Are the Side Effects ?

Most children will have no side effects. Some children may have an upset stomach, therefore it is best if they do not eat for an hour before using the gas.

Occasionally children may have a tingling sensation around their lips and tips of their fingers. These side effects disappear when your child stops using the gas.