

Jewellery/Make-up

Remove all jewellery and make-up, including body piercing and nail varnish, before going to theatre.

Medicines

The oral contraceptive pill should be stopped 6 weeks before a planned operation. You and your child will need to discuss this with your family doctor.

Medication before the Operation

Occasionally children who are anxious may need special medicine before going to theatre to relieve the anxiety. If this is needed for your child it will be discussed with you first. This medicine is usually given as a syrup, 15-20 minutes before going to theatre.

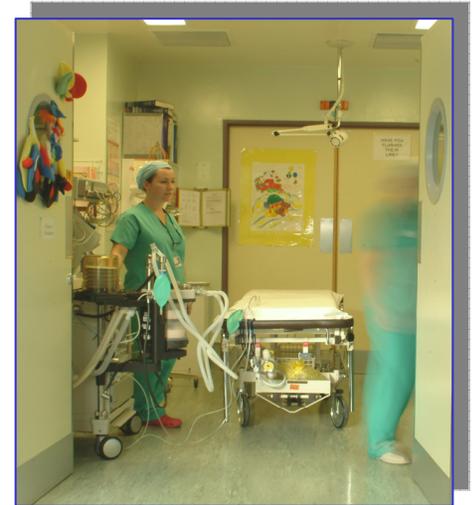
Pain Relief following the Operation

- In theatre when your child is still asleep he/she will receive pain relief. This will generally include suppositories and local anaesthetic injected into the wound area.
- We will give your child more pain relief medication in the Recovery Room or on the ward if he/she needs it.
- At home following the operation, you will also need to give your child pain relief medication. The nurses and/or doctors will advise you about what pain relief medication to use and for how long.
- If you have any queries about this or any other matter related to your child's operation you can contact the nursing staff on Beech Day Ward at **01-4142295** between 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday or the Nurse's station on Beech Ward outside of these times at **01-4142160**.

Developed by the nursing staff of Beech Day Ward and the Children's Operating Theatre Department with support from the Nursing Practice Development Team, The National Children's Hospital. March 2009

Patient/Parent Information Leaflet

So your Child is Coming to the Day Ward for an Operation in the Afternoon



THE ADELAIDE & MEATH HOSPITAL, DUBLIN
INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL



Statement of Values

Respect - Caring - Openness - Partnership - Teamwork Fairness & Equality

Fasting times

- Bring your child to Beech Day Ward at 11.00 in the morning in preparation for an operation later in the afternoon.
- Give your child a light breakfast of cereal and toast or a plain biscuit before 6.30 in the morning.
- No food, milk or milky drinks should be given after 6.30 in the morning.
- You can give your child a small glass of apple juice or flat 7UP (about 150mls or 5ozs) up to 10.30 in the morning.
- Give your child all regular medicines, for example steroids, epilepsy medication, inhalers or Ritalin, at or before 10.30 in the morning.
- Do not give your child any more food or drink of any kind after 10.30 in the morning.
- Feed your child as normal on the day before the operation to avoid fasting too long. If your child is fasting too long it can cause a lack of fluid in the body (dehydration) or a low blood sugar level (hypoglycaemia).

Breastfeeding

If your child is breast-fed the last feed should be given at 9.30 in the morning.

Vaccinations/Immunisations

- Your child should not come to the hospital for a planned operation for 4 weeks following the BCG or MMR.
- For all other vaccinations your child should not come to the hospital for a planned operation for one week after he/she has received the vaccine.

Infectious Illness

If your child has had an infectious illness or has been in contact with an infectious illness (for example chicken pox, measles, mumps) in the 6 weeks before the planned operation it is safer that your child does not come to the hospital. Please contact the nursing staff on Beech Day Ward at **01- 4142295** for further information.

- For the safety of your child, the operation may need to be postponed or cancelled if these instructions are not followed.

On the Day of the Operation

- Only the child who is to have the operation, and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) should come to the hospital.
- If your child is unwell on the day of the operation then it is safer that he/she does not come to the hospital. Instead you may wish to bring your child to the family doctor to be seen. Please contact the nursing staff on Beech Day Ward at **01- 4142295** to tell us that you will not be coming.
- *Please inform nursing and medical staff of any relevant health history.*

Clothing

- Bring your child's pyjamas with him/her when coming to the hospital.
- A T-Shirt and shorts may be worn if your child does not usually wear pyjamas at home.
- Remove all underwear (including bras and underpants) before going to theatre.
- Usually the above clothing will be worn by your child when going to theatre. However theatre gowns may sometimes be needed.