



University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

Oral Sucrose for Infants Having Painful Medical Procedures

What does oral 24% Sucrose do?

Research has shown that a small amount of oral sucrose reduces a baby's pain with procedures. The sucrose solution works by your baby tasting the sweetness on the tongue. Your baby does not need to drink the sucrose. Sucrose will not completely stop all of the pain, but the baby will have a slower heart beat and less crying during and after the procedure.

Can my baby have oral sucrose?

Babies 6 months and younger can have oral sucrose. The registered nurse (RN) caring for your baby will decide if your baby is able to take the sucrose. The nurse will check to see if there are any conditions that might prevent your baby from having sucrose. Babies with intestinal problems or who have trouble swallowing may need special precautions. Some babies seemed to be soothed by the sucrose. Other babies may not be soothed.

How will my baby receive the sucrose?

The sucrose is given in drops directly from a small vial. The person giving the dose will place liquid on the front part of the tongue and give the baby a pacifier. Another way to give the sucrose is to dip or coat the pacifier with the solution and then give the pacifier to the baby.

May I give sucrose to my baby when they are in the hospital?

Parents may give sucrose to their baby if an RN directs them to do so. The RN will screen your baby for any problems and tell you the correct amount of solution (drops) to give. The nurse will show you how to give it and then

explain when to give it. If you give your baby sucrose, tell the nurse so that the dose can be recorded in your baby's chart.

Should I give my baby sucrose when they are fussy?

This concentrated sucrose has been shown to help with the pain from medical procedures. It can also help comfort babies who may have other types of pain due to surgery or medical conditions. Sucrose should not be given frequently just because a baby is restless or fussy.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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