

Neonatal Handbook



Parent Information

Dear

Your baby has been found to have a condition called **Glucose–6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase deficiency**.

This condition is also called G6PD deficiency.

G6PD deficiency is an inherited condition of the red blood cells. It is most often found in children from families of Mediterranean or South East Asian origin. It is important to know that G6PD deficiency **will not affect** the normal development and health of your child.

There are a few substances that may cause break down of the red blood cells if your child comes in contact with them. The rapid break down of red blood cells causes anemia. **Apart from avoiding these substances the G6PD deficiency does not cause other troubles and does not need any treatment.**

You should ask your doctor if you want more information. If there are any other children in the family who have not been tested for G6PD deficiency your doctor can arrange this for them.

The following substances should be avoided:

- Moth balls and Napthalene

Anything stored in mothballs should be washed before it comes near your baby. When your child is older, do not let him handle moth balls.

- Broad Beans (also called Fava Beans or Vicia Fava)

This is the only food that should be avoided. All other types of beans are safe.

- Aspirin (also called acetyl salicylic acid)

Large amounts of aspirin affect children with G6PD deficiency. Paracetamol is the preferred medicine for relief of pain or fever in children.

- Medicines prescribed by your doctor

Some medicines may affect people with G6PD deficiency including nitrofurantoin, probenecid, phenacetin, suphonamides, chloroquine, primaquine, para-amino salicylic acid.

Show your doctor this letter before **any** medicine is prescribed for your child.