

## INFORMED CONSENT OF VITAMIN K ADMINISTRATION

A shot of vitamin K has been giving routinely to babies soon after birth for many years, to prevent a condition called hemorrhagic disease of the newborn (HDN). HDN is an inability of the blood to clot normally, so the baby bruises and bleeds excessively. It is a serious condition that can be life-threatening in about half the cases that occur.

Vitamin K is essential for normal blood clotting. It is produced by bacteria in the intestines. Babies are born with sterile intestines, so they do not produce vitamin K right away. As the baby drinks breast milk or formula, bacteria is introduced into the intestines, and vitamin K is produced, usually within a week. Thus all newborns are normally low in vitamin K during this first week of life, and consequently their ability to stop bleeding is decreased. A vitamin K injection is routinely given in the hospital to all newborns soon after birth to speed the ability of the blood to clot normally, and to prevent HDN.

HDN is rare. Estimates of its frequency vary widely from 1-17 per 1000 babies and 1 per 200-400 in breastfed babies. When vitamin K is given shortly after birth, estimates of the incidence of HDN decrease to 1 in about 20,000 babies. **Premature** babies and babies who were **bruised** or **injured during birth** may be more likely to get HDN. Babies undergoing **surgery** (including circumcision) will bleed more if they do not receive vitamin K. Women may take **certain medications during pregnancy** that may decrease the baby's ability to stop bleeding after it is born (aspirin, antibiotics).

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all newborn babies receive vitamin K soon after birth by either an intramuscular injection.

- Disadvantages: 1. occasionally painful 2. complication from injection (haven't seen)  
3. slightly higher incidence of jaundice

I (we) have read and understood the above information on Vitamin K. I (we) have chosen to:

**ADMINISTER**

**DO NOT ADMINISTER (circle one)**

Vitamin K given to our newborn and accept full responsibility of our decision.

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Signature of parent or guardian  
9/97 rev 12/98 rev 12/01, 4/06, 4/12

PRINT NAME

Date

## Newborn Eye Prophylaxis Eye Ointment

It is a law in all 50 states to administer some form of eye treatment for the purpose of preventing eye infections that lead to blindness. The organisms that do this are usually sexually transmitted diseases. Erythromycin is the current treatment. It neither burns or hurts when administered. It won't interfere with eye contact or bonding with the baby.

The vagina isn't sterile and babies can get little eye infections that won't lead to blindness either from passing through the birth canal or after birth from people touching or kissing the baby in the eye area. Since erythromycin isn't, it isn't an awful idea to have the treatment but it is your choice to have it done or not.

I have had my questions answered and I/we choose to

**ADMINISTER**

**DO NOT ADMINISTER**

the erythromycin ointment placed in the baby's eye after the birth.

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Signature of parent

Print Name

Date