This hospital is taking part in a research study to find out if giving mothers a single dose of an antibiotic after they have had an assisted delivery (forceps or ventouse) helps to prevent infection. In the UK around 1 in 8 women have an assisted delivery.

This leaflet gives a brief summary of the study. If at some point during your care, a decision is made to recommend that you have a forceps or ventouse delivery you may be invited to take part. You would be provided with more detailed information on the study and told about what taking part would involve. We would like you to know about this study, in case this happens to you.

What is the purpose of the study?
Currently mothers are not routinely given antibiotics after a forceps or ventouse delivery. The aim of this study is to find out if giving mothers a single dose of antibiotics is effective at preventing infection after forceps or ventouse deliveries. There are concerns about over prescribing antibiotics but infections can be very serious, so this is an important question to answer. We really don’t know if giving a single dose of antibiotics makes a difference.

Do I have to take part?
No. It is entirely up to you whether or not you take part in the study. If you decide not to take part or wish to withdraw at any time your care will not be affected and will follow the standard approach in this hospital.

What would happen to me if I take part?
If you take part in the study you will receive a single dose of an antibiotic after you have given birth called co-amoxiclav (a type of penicillin), or a placebo (a harmless solution of weak salt water, known as saline) in a drip in your arm. Most mothers at this stage will already have a drip, but if not you may need to have one put in. The decision about whether you receive the antibiotic or placebo is decided by chance rather like tossing a coin. This means you will have a 50% chance of receiving co-amoxiclav and a 50% chance of receiving a placebo. Neither you nor the staff caring for you will know which you were allocated to make sure the two groups are compared fairly.
When your baby is 6 weeks old a midwife will call you to ask a few questions, this should only take about 10 minutes. So we know how you are getting on we will also send you a questionnaire, this questionnaire will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. There will be an option to complete this questionnaire online.

There are no further hospital visits or tests required for this study.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research that involves NHS patients has been approved by an NHS Research Ethics Committee before it goes ahead. The South Central -Hampshire B Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study.

How can I find out more?

For more information you can ask your midwife or the local research team any further questions you may have about the study.

Local contacts

Principal Investigator

(LEAD)

(LRM Role)

(MIDWIVES)

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