



Chloral hydrate for sedation before painless procedures

This leaflet is for parents and carers about the use of this medicine in children. Our information sometimes differs from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information is usually aimed at adults. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Name of medicine

Chloral hydrate

Why is it important for my child to have this medicine?

Your child may need a procedure or scan that is not expected to be painful but that requires them to stay completely still. This can be difficult, especially for young children.

Chloral hydrate is a short-acting sedative that will help your child to sleep during the procedure or scan. This ensures that your child remains still and does not feel any distress, and that the procedure or scan can be done correctly and safely.

How will chloral hydrate be given?

Chloral hydrate will be given as a liquid medicine whenever possible.

When is chloral hydrate given?

Your child will be given chloral hydrate 45–60 minutes before the procedure or scan. This will be done by a nurse or doctor.

Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don't want (side-effects).

- Your child may be drowsy or sleepy, or less alert than usual, for up to 24 hours after having chloral hydrate.
- They should rest while the medicine wears off. Make sure you supervise your child until you are confident they are steady on their feet and no longer drowsy.

- Your child may get a headache or may feel sick or be sick (vomit) or may get stomach pain, bloating or wind. These symptoms are usually mild and wear off quickly.
- There may sometimes be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.
- More information on side-effects can be found in a [leaflet](#) on our website.

Can I give my child other medicines after chloral hydrate?



Your child should not have any other medicine that makes them drowsy as chloral hydrate also has this effect. This includes medicines that are bought over the counter from a pharmacy or a shop and herbal and complementary medicines.

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless you have been told not to.
- You can give your child their regular medicines, unless you have been told not to.

Who to contact for more information

Your doctor or nurse will be able to give you more information about chloral hydrate.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111

Tel 111 nhs.uk

Scotland: NHS 24

Tel 111 nhs24.scot

Wales: NHS 111 Wales

Tel 111 111.wales.nhs.ukw

Northern Ireland: NI Direct

nidirect.gov.uk

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk