

# Paediatric Medication Administration: Sucrose 24%

Oral Sucrose 24% is used as an analgesic to assist in minimising procedural pain for neonates and infants during minor procedures. The use of Sucrose 24% requires a medical order and parental consent.

Effective age range: 

Sucrose can be used in neonates and up to 12 months of age. It has been shown to be most effective in the neonatal population, however there is also evidence of efficacy in infants up to 12 months of age.

Examples of procedures where Sucrose 24% could be utilised:

- Heel prick bloods
- Intravenous catheter insertion
- Intramuscular injections
- Nasogastric tube insertion
- Tape/Dressing changes
- In/out urine catheter
- Lumbar Puncture
- ECG

Check your dosing is correct:

[Australian Medicines Handbook: Children's Dosing Companion - Sucrose](#)

## Guide to Administration

1. Use a syringe to measure the total dose prescribed. Drop one-quarter (or less) of prescribed dose onto the anterior tongue 2 minutes before starting the procedure
2. Give the rest of the dose incrementally throughout the procedure as required
3. Use with other supportive measures, e.g. holding, cuddling or distraction (in older infants).



### ALERT

Sucrose does not replace the need for simple analgesia, local anaesthetics or narcotic analgesia for more painful, longer procedures.



## Some Key Points

- Sucrose 24% is only effective when given orally. Do not give directly into the stomach via an NGT/OGT.
- The efficacy of sucrose is improved if it is used in conjunction with a pacifier and if the infant is held throughout the procedure by their care giver.
- The analgesic effect of Sucrose 24% lasts 5-8 minutes.
- Oral Sucrose 24% given to neonates for procedural pain management within the recommended dosing does not alter blood sugar levels (BSLs).

## Tips in children

- Breast milk can be used in the management of procedural pain in neonates. Where possible it should be used in preference to sucrose

## For further information:

[Australian Medicines Handbook: Children's Dosing Companion - Sucrose](#)

[CHQ Procedure: Medication Administration](#)

## References:

This Queensland Paediatric Emergency Nursing Skill Sheet was developed by the Emergency Care of Children working group (funded by the Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel) with the help of the following resources:

- Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT), Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), & Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). (n.d.). Sucrose. Australian Medicines Handbook: Children's Dosing Companion. Retrieved February 10, 2021, from <https://childrens.amh.net.au/monographs/sucrose>
- Children's Health Queensland. (2018, January 9). Medication - Administration. [https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0037/1807795/proc\\_01039new.pdf](https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0037/1807795/proc_01039new.pdf)
- Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service - Women's Newborn and Children's Services. (2020, June 30). Sucrose 24% Oral Liquid: Administration for Neonatal Patients. Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service. <http://gchweb.sth.health.qld.gov.au/documents/MEDPRO0134>

## Nursing Skill Sheet Legal Disclaimer

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- Providing care within the context of locally available resources, expertise, and scope of practice.
- Supporting consumer rights and informed decision making in partnership with healthcare practitioners including the right to decline intervention or ongoing management.

- Advising consumers of their choices in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables comfortable and confidential discussion. This includes the use of interpreter services where necessary.
- Ensuring informed consent is obtained prior to delivering care.
- Meeting all legislative requirements and professional standards.
- Applying standard precautions, and additional precautions as necessary, when delivering care.
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements.

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