NHS
Calderdale and Huddersfield
NHS Foundation Trust

Calderdale and Huddersfield
Donor Breast Milk Bank

Donor Breast Milk – Your Questions Answered

What is donor milk?

Donor breast milk is donated by healthy nursing mothers who have more milk than their own babies need. It is the next best thing to mothers own.

Is it safe?

All donor mothers will have been screened to be donors at the breastmilk bank. Donated milk is tested for bacteria and heat treated for added protection.

What screening takes place?

Donors undergo verbal screening for lifestyle and medical history as well as blood screening for the following infections:

HIV 1 and 2 (viruses causing AIDS)
Hepatitis B and C
HTLV I and II (Human T-cell Leukaemia Viruses)
Syphillis

Why donor milk?

When a mother is unable to provide any or enough of her own breastmilk, donor breast milk is often the preferred alternative to infant formula (or artificial milk). This is because donor breastmilk is more easily digested and still contains many of the protective factors (such as immunoglobulins) which help protect the baby from infection and are not present in formula which is prepared from cow's milk.

Protection from necrotising enterocolitis

Donor breast milk may also have a protective role against the serious gut condition necrotising enterocolitis which mainly affects premature babies. Babies who receive breastmilk alone are at a significantly lower risk than those who receive formula, but the reason for this remains unclear.

compassionate care

Easier to digest

A premature baby's intestine is very immature and can digest and absorb breastmilk more easily than formula milk. Premature baby are fed small amounts of breastmilk to help their gut mature and the volumes given are gradually increased. This is also true for babies who have had surgery on their gut.

How is the donor milk collected?

Donor mothers are informed on how to express and collect their milk cleanly. A trained volunteer driver collects the frozen donor milk from the donor's home/hospital and transports it in a designated cool box to the milk bank. Once at the milk bank it is safely stored until it is pasteurised (heat treated).

Is the milk tested and treated?

Every batch of milk is tested to ensure that it has not contaminated with undesirable bacteria during expressing and handling. Any milk that is contaminated is discarded. Otherwise it is pasteurised according to the NICE guideline – Donor breast milk banks: the operation of donor milk bank services.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Calderdale and Huddersfield
Donor Breast Milk Bank
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone (01422) 224421

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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