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NHS Lanarkshire - for local services and the latest health news visit www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Lanarkshire General
Enquiry Line: 0300 30 30 243

NHS inform - The national health information service for Scotland.
www.nhsinform.co.uk
Tel No: 0800 22 44 88

For NHS staff only -

For advice on how to get a leaflet translated for your patients, please contact: patientinformation@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

For patient letters, records etc. please email: translation.services@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

We may use Copilot to assist in the production of patient leaflets where appropriate.



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Epidural and Spinal Anaesthesia

~ information for pregnant women taking Clexane

Anaesthetic Department



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CAN I HAVE AN EPIDURAL OR SPINAL IF I AM TAKING CLEXANE?

You have been advised to take clexane during your pregnancy by your obstetrician or your midwife. You may be taking this once or twice a day.

Clexane 'thins your blood'.

Platelets are cells in your blood which help to form a clot to help stop bleeding. An uncommon side effect of clexane is to cause the number of platelets in your blood to fall, further 'thinning your blood'.

Around 20% of women who deliver in Wishaw General Maternity use epidural pain relief for labour. The majority of caesarean section deliveries are done using spinal anaesthesia. Both epidurals and spinals are placed at your lower back.

If an epidural or spinal is placed when your blood is thin, this can result in a collection of blood within your spinal canal causing nerve damage in a small number of cases.

This means that we have to leave some time after the last dose of clexane before an Anaesthetist can place an epidural or spinal.

The amount of clexane that you are receiving will affect when you can have an epidural or spinal. You will need to have your blood tested shortly after arrival at the Maternity Unit. This is regardless of whether you have arrived as a planned admission, or if you have started your labour.

CLEXANE ONCE A DAY

Your blood will be taken to check your platelet count.

If your platelet count is normal and **12 hours** have passed since your last clexane injection an epidural or spinal can be placed.

CLEXANE TWICE A DAY

Your blood will be taken to check your platelet count and clotting.

If your platelet count and clotting is normal and **24 hours** have passed since your last clexane injection an epidural or spinal can be placed.

CLEXANE AND ASPIRIN

If your obstetrician has advised you take clexane and aspirin you may require to have stopped these for longer than 24hours before it is safe to place an epidural or spinal.

Your blood will be taken to check your platelet count and clotting.

Your anaesthetist will then decide if it is safe to place an epidural or spinal.

The final decision whether an epidural or spinal can be placed will be made by the Anaesthetist who is looking after you. The Anaesthetist will also take into consideration any other medicines that you are taking or other medical conditions that you have.

PLANNING FOR YOUR LABOUR AND DELIVERY

Your Consultant Obstetrician will make a plan for your delivery and will advise you on when to stop using your clexane.

If you think that you are in labour:

Do not inject your next dose of clexane.

Contact Wishaw Maternity Triage on:
Tel No: 01698 366005

After you have been assessed a decision will be made regarding your next dose of clexane.