

An information leaflet for those giving birth at Oslo University Hospital, Ullevål

It is normal to observe/ monitor the baby's heart rate throughout the delivery in order to make sure that everything is alright in the belly. There are mainly two methods of observation. At Ullevål Hospital we monitor the baby by registering heart rate and in circumstances where the baby's heart rate is abnormal we take a minor blood sample during delivery from the skin at the top of the baby's head. The other method of observation analyses electrical signals from the baby's heart through the use of a small electrode which is attached to the baby's head. We do not know with certainty which one of these methods is the best.

We are currently planning a study at our maternity ward which is aimed to compare the quality of these two methods. This study aims to ensure that we provide the best maternity care possible by being able to effectively detect deliveries where the baby is put under stress.

What does the study entail?

Regardless of whether you do or do not wish to participate in the study, your delivery will be monitored in the same way that we observe deliveries at Ullevål hospital today. This is done by registering the baby's heart rate and taking a blood sample when necessary from the top of the baby's head. During some deliveries it is also necessary to attach a small electrode to the baby's head to get a better overview of the fetus's cardiovascular reactions. In cases where patients have agreed to participate in the study, we will look at these registrations of electrical impulses in the baby's heart after the delivery. By comparing these two methods of observation we hope to find out which can best indicate whether the baby is in good condition and if the baby is starting to get tired.

The file containing electronic fetal heart rate signals is sent to the manufacturer of the surveillance equipment in Sweden for «translation» into numbers that are adequate for mathematical analyses. No information regarding you or your child will be stored outside Oslo University Hospital

What happens to the baby's information?

The information gathered about your delivery, your baby's cardiovascular reactions and health following delivery are stored under a separate number. This number is not the same as your birth number and it will therefore be impossible to know which patient the information is referring to. When it is necessary, we may also use this number to retrieve your birth number in case we need additional information from your journal.

There are no disadvantages for you and your baby

Your delivery will be handled in the exact same way regardless of whether you participate in the study. It is after your delivery when we will do extra analysis of the fetus's cardiovascular activity.

The right to opt-out

This study is approved by our department head/manager and the Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD). If you wish to opt-out of participating in this quality assurance study, it will have no effect on you and your baby's treatment at the hospital. The results of this study will be published in order to spread information to other hospitals about quality assurance studies from our maternity ward. No patients, treating doctor or children will be identified in any such publication, and the results will only be presented anonymously. If you want to participate in this study, meaning you **DO NOT** wish to opt-out of participation, then you **DO NOT** need to return this leaflet to us.

I wish to opt-out from the ongoing fetal monitoring study.

City/date

Signature

Personal identification number (11 digits)

Please return to:

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