Keeping newborn babies with a family history of MCADD safe in the first hours and days of life

Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD) is a rare inherited disorder where the body cannot metabolise fat properly. If both parents are MCADD carriers, there is a one-in-four chance of their child being born with MCADD. These babies are especially vulnerable to sudden death in the first hours and days of life and so before the diagnosis can be confirmed or excluded a special feeding regimen needs to be established in addition to breastfeeding.

Is this baby from a family with a history of MCADD?

All pregnant women should be asked at the booking visit about any inherited conditions that may prompt further action.

YES

Refer to specialist paediatric inherited metabolic disorder services and specialist genetic counselling services.

Specialist paediatric inherited metabolic disorder services provide advice and agree a birth and post-birth plan (including a special feeding regimen and early access to testing) with the services caring for the pregnant woman, and supply guidance and information to the parents/carers.

This is a clinical briefing intended for General Practitioners, midwives, obstetric, neonatal and paediatric staff. For further information see: http://newbornbloodspot.screening.nhs.uk/mcadd and http://www.bimdg.org.uk/guidelines.asp

[option to add links to local protocols and referral pathways before distribution]

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