

DIVISION OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

COLLECTING A HAIR SAMPLE FROM A NEWBORN

STEP BY STEP HAIR COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Always use disposable gloves when collecting a hair sample. Use new gloves for each subject.

Step 1. Collect a minimum of 5 mg of hair (approximately 20 strands). Since some infants are born with very little hair, you may need to cut hair from several areas of the head. (see page 2 for an example of a sufficient sample)

Step 2. While firmly holding the lock of hair, cut as close to the scalp as possible (within 2-4mm).

Step 3. Drop the hair in a small envelope or orange-top specimen container and identify the sample by writing on the envelope. Seal the envelope. **DO NOT USE TAPE ON INFANT HAIR!**

Step 4. Place the small envelope in a larger envelope with the requisition form or a letter containing the following information:

- Why is intrauterine drug exposure suspected?
- Is maternal history known?
- Did the newborn have any symptoms characteristic of drug exposure before birth? What were they?
- Which drugs should we test for?
- Where should the results be sent?
- Where should the invoice be sent?

Remember –

- Collect enough hair for the number of tests to be performed. We will perform one test for each drug.
- Prevent contamination of the sample during collection and shipping by placing each subject's hair in a letter-sized envelope. Nothing else should go in that envelope.
- Identify the sample(s) accurately.
- Segmented analyses cannot be performed on infant hair.

Send the hair sample(s) to:

The Motherisk Laboratory
The Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X8

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EXAMPLE OF A SUFFICIENT HAIR SAMPLE FROM A NEWBORN

