

Who can take part in the study?

All women who are having their baby's heart rate monitored in labour by continuous electronic monitoring (EFM).

The presence of the INFANT study in this hospital does not mean that midwives and doctors will be more or less likely to propose continuous electronic monitoring. The decision about whether to recommend continuous electronic monitoring in labour will be based on the same clinical criteria as is usual in this hospital.

What happens now?

You do not need to do anything now. If you and your midwife or doctor decide that continuous electronic monitoring (EFM) in labour may be necessary, you will be asked to consider taking part in the INFANT study. Your midwife or doctor will discuss the study with you at that time.

How do I get more information about the study?

More information about the INFANT study is included in a participant information leaflet. If you would like to see this leaflet, please ask your midwife at an antenatal appointment or you can see it at the website, www.ucl.ac.uk/ctu/infant



Antenatal Information for Women

A study of monitoring babies during labour – the INFANT study

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This hospital is one of many hospitals in the UK and Ireland taking part in the INFANT study.



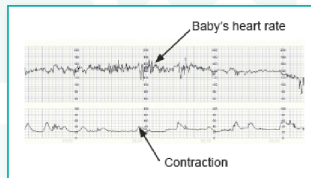
The INFANT study aims to try and improve the way that we monitor babies during labour.

Many women do not require continuous monitoring of their baby's heart rate during labour. For these women, regular but intermittent listening to the baby's heart rate is all that is required (or babies heart rates if you are expecting twins).

However, for some women it may be recommended that the baby's heart rate is recorded continuously using a monitor such as the one below.



This technique is called continuous electronic fetal monitoring, sometimes referred to as EFM or CTG, after the name of the piece of equipment that is used – the cardiotocogram. It produces a continuous recording of the changes that occur in a baby's heart rate during labour and in the activity of the uterus (contractions). This is an example of the recordings produced.



Midwives and doctors caring for women in labour use continuous electronic fetal monitoring to identify changes in the baby's heart rate that suggest that the baby may not be coping well with the labour. If this happens they may recommend other tests to check how well the baby is, such as taking a small sample of the baby's blood from the scalp, or they may recommend that the baby is delivered as soon as possible.

Looking at a recording of the baby's heart rate and interpreting it is complicated and we are constantly looking for ways to make this more accurate.

One way that may be able to improve this accuracy is to use a computer to help the midwives and doctors to recognise when

changes are occurring. A computer system (a picture of its screen is shown below) has been developed to provide additional information which may help the midwives and doctors to decide whether any changes occurring in the baby's heart rate are important or not.



Although many women who have their labour care at this hospital will not have continuous electronic fetal monitoring in labour, we want to let everyone know about this important study.

What is the INFANT study looking at?

The INFANT study will look at whether a new computer system can help interpret the baby's heart rate in labour, specifically whether it is effective or not at improving the health and wellbeing of babies and mothers who have continuous electronic fetal heart rate monitoring (EFM) in labour.