

SPEG MCN is a network of health-care professionals in Scotland who have a particular interest in the care of children and young adults who have endocrine conditions.

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How to Give Thyroxine to Babies and Children

Information for patients, parents and carers



Giving thyroxine to your Child

Thyroxine (also known as levothyroxine) is given to babies and children when the thyroid gland is either no longer working, or if the gland has not developed.

It is best given to babies and children as a tablet, as the tablet is known to be readily absorbed by the stomach.

Giving thyroxine to babies

It can be a challenge to give thyroxine to infants. The tablets can be crushed and mixed in a small amount of liquid (water, breast or formula milk). You should not add the crushed tablet to your baby's feeding bottle as they may not drink it all.



You can mix the crushed tablet with the liquid and give it on a spoon or with a syringe.

Do not give your baby a full feed immediately after giving the thyroxine in case the baby vomits part of this feed and loses some of the dose.



Giving thyroxine to older children

Once your child is old enough to drink from a cup or beaker, you can give the tablets along with a drink of water. The tablets can be chewed or swallowed whole.

If your child cannot swallow the tablets, the tablets can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of water or soft foods like yogurt.



Important things to remember when giving thyroxine

Give this medicine exactly as your child's doctor or pharmacist asks you to. Do not change the amount you give your child without talking to your doctor.

Do not stop giving your child thyroxine unless your child's doctor tells you to.

Give your child this medicine at the same time each day to avoid missing doses. thyroxine is usually given once a day.

What should you do if your child misses a dose of thyroxine?

Give the missed dose as soon as you remember.

If it is almost time for the next dose when you remember you had forgotten to give it, skip the missed dose. Give the next dose at the regular time.

Do not give your child 2 doses to make up for 1 missed dose.

What should you do if your child misses a dose of thyroxine?

If your child is sick within 30 minutes of taking the dose of thyroxine, you should repeat the dose.

If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after the dose is taken, there is no need to repeat the dose, as the thyroxine will have been absorbed.