

Overnight Oximetry

Oximetry is a way to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood. It is measured using infra-red light and is completely painless.

Having this test done will allow the doctors to ascertain whether or not you are having problems with your breathing when you are asleep.

However, if this test is inconclusive you may be invited to come for a further test called a sleep study.

What does it involve?

A small probe is attached to your finger and a small monitor attached to the finger probe is secured on your wrist to record the data.

You will be asked to wear the probe overnight as we need to see what happens to your oxygen levels when you are asleep.

The physiologist will explain how to attach the probe and switch it on.

Please remove any nail varnish prior to your appointment, as this can prevent the probe from working properly.

We ask you to please return the pulse oximeter the next working day by 10am. This is important as it will be needed by other patients.

What are the risks associated with having this test?

If you have poor circulation in your hands or fingers e.g. Raynaud's syndrome or vibration white finger, please inform the physiologists.

If your finger becomes painful when the probe is on your finger, take the probe off and try another finger. If the probe is still uncomfortable then remove the probe altogether.

Please let staff know this when you return the probe.

If you decide not to go ahead with this investigation please discuss this with your consultant.



What will happen to the results?

The results of the study will be sent to the doctor who requested the test to be carried out.

They will either send you an appointment to see them again in clinic or write to you to explain the results. This will happen within one month.

Sometimes it is necessary to carry out a further study of your oxygen levels/breathing pattern overnight. If this is necessary you will be sent another appointment.

If you would like more information please speak to your consultant or one of the clinical physiologists who perform this test.

Contact details for Cardio-Respiratory Departments:

Doncaster Royal Infirmary

Tel: 01302 642456 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Bassetlaw Hospital

Tel: 01909 572761 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns/complaints you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person or by telephone 8.30am till 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) or via email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net