

Therapies Directorate, Paediatric Nutrition and Dietetics

Information for Children and their Families

Reintroduction of Soya into your child's diet

Your child had a reaction to soya in the past. The following symptoms may have occurred;

- Tummy pain and vomiting
- Itching and/or redness of the skin
- Urticaria (nettle rash or hives), often around the mouth
- Swelling e.g. lips, eyes, ears
- Cough

Many children grow out of their soya allergy. You should discuss when to re-introduce soya with your doctor, allergy nurse or dietitian. This leaflet outlines a safe way to do this.

Children with a history of the following symptoms should **not** reintroduce soya at home;

- Anticipated risk of severe reaction such as anaphylaxis or breathing difficulties.
- Your child's doctor / allergy nurse has advised against this based on awaited or recent blood tests.

If there is a history of any of the above soya will need to be reintroduced within a hospital setting and under the supervision of a trained healthcare professional.

Practical pointers of Soya reintroduction

Before starting the reintroduction process or progressing to the next step, ensure the following;

- Your child is well at the time.
- All gastrointestinal symptoms have settled and or eczema is not flared
- Your child does not have any antihistamine in their body as this may mask a reaction.
- Make sure foods do not contain any other ingredients which your child is allergic to
- Don't introduce any other new foods during the soya reintroduction
- Ideally introduce foods early in the day, at a time when you are not busy and able to monitor for adverse symptoms. Have your child's antihistamines available.
- All children are individual and will work their way up this process at different rates
- Don't force your child to have a particular food as remember these foods are new to your child so they may be hesitant at first.
- If your child is at school/ nursery keep them on a soya free diet there and just reintroduce at home so you can control portion sizes and note any reactions.
- If your child spends time at more than one home, agree a plan between you.

If at any stage of the reintroduction process your child experiences adverse symptoms return to the previous step that your child was able to tolerate and wait at least 3 months before trying again.

Steps of Soya Reintroduction

Start with small amounts of a food (1/2 teaspoon) and gradually increase until a full portion is reached. If a food in a step is tolerated, leave this food in the diet and move onto the next step. If your child seems to react to the foods offered go back to the previous stage.

Step 1 Soya Lecithin

Foods that list soya lecithin as an ingredient, eg:

- Crackers
- Chocolate or dairy free chocolate,
- Nairns dark chocolate oat biscuits
- Nesquik chocolate powder
- Free from chocolate buttons

Step 2 Soya Flour

- Bread / bagel / biscuit / cracker or cake containing soya flour

Step 3 Well Cooked Soya

- Lasagne or fish pie made with soya milk and /or soya cheese
- Soya cheese on toast
- Pizza cooked with soya cheese
- Shepherds pie made with soya milk in the mashed potato

Step 4 Whole Soya products – Lightly cooked

- Cooked tofu - stir fried / vegetarian sausage
- Soya custard / white sauce made with soya milk
- Rice pudding made with soya milk
- Soya yogurt or soya dessert

Step 5 Whole Soya products - Uncooked

- Soya yogurt
- Soya dessert/ custard (unheated)
- Soya cheese
- Soya icecream

Step 6 Soya Milk

- Soya infant formula (SMA Wysoy)
- Soya milk (fortified with calcium)

Start with 30mls (1 floz) and increase by 30mls (1floz) a day until your child is drinking their usual milk volume. It can be mixed with your child's normal milk.

Information for Patients

When tolerating a full portion of soya for 3 days your child should then be able to include soya freely in the diet.

This leaflet should only be used in conjunction with advice from your Paediatric Dietitian / Allergy Nurse. Information is correct at time of writing

For further support please contact your Paediatric Dietitian on 0121 424 1674 or Allergy nurse on 0121 424 2393.

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Additional Sources of Information:

Go online and view NHS Choices website for more information about a wide range of health topics <http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

You may want to visit one of our Health Information Centres located in:

- Main Entrance at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Tel: 0121 424 2280
 - Treatment Centre at Good Hope Hospital Tel: 0121 424 9946
 - Clinic Entrance Solihull Hospital Tel: 0121 424 5616
- or contact us by email: healthinfo.centre@heartofengland.nhs.uk.

Dear Patient

We welcome your views on what you thought of this patient information leaflet, also any suggestions on how you feel we can improve through our feedback link below:

- Patient Information Feedback email: patientinformationleafletfeedback@heartofengland.nhs.uk

If you wish to make any other comments this can be done through the links listed below:

- Patient Opinion: www.patientopinion.org.uk
- I want great care: www.iwantgreatcare.org (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about our patient information and this hospital and how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the sites.

If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or your treatment or if there is anything you do not understand and you wish to know more about please write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.

