

Mother _____

Date of birth _____

Vitamin K Informed Consent/Refusal Form

With the intent to reduce Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding (VKDB) in infants, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends an intramuscular injection of .5 – 1.0 milligrams of Vitamin K (phytonadione) into the thigh of every newborn within one hour of birth. VKDB was formerly known as Hemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn. All newborns normally have prolonged clotting times, but the abnormal condition of VKDB occurs in 0.01% - 1.5% of those who have not received a Vitamin K injection. VKDB is near confirmed when a bleeding infant has a prolonged prothrombin time (PT) together with a normal fibrinogen level and platelet count. Rapid correction of the PT and/or cessation of bleeding after Vitamin K administration confirm the diagnosis of VKDB. In national surveys researching millions of babies conducted from 1980 forward, almost all of the babies who had VKDB were breastfed. Most breastfed babies have an adequate Vitamin K supply and do not have bleeding episodes when they are NOT treated with Vitamin K. Most formulas have Vitamin K added.

An early warning sign of VKDB is visible bleeding evidenced by skin bruising or blood seepage from any body opening which can quickly lead to internal hemorrhage. In approximately 30-60% of cases, concealed internal bleeding is from fragile capillaries in the brain and can result in severely delayed development or death. If such bruising or bleeding occurs in an infant, it is imperative that a health professional be notified immediately. Medical intervention and Vitamin K administration are needed swiftly before seizures begin; internal bleeding may sometimes occur without visible outward signs.

If a baby is circumcised, he must be observed carefully afterwards for hemorrhage. It is normal for a baby girl to have an occasional spot of vaginal bleeding caused by hormones transferred from the mother. A few drops of blood from the umbilicus are also normal, but it should not continue.

Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding can occur as early as within 24 hours of birth. A Vitamin K injection may be particularly warranted if the birth has been unusually traumatic or if certain maternal drugs have been used during the pregnancy (these may include anticonvulsants, cephalosporin antibiotics, tuberculostatic agents and Vitamin K antagonists). A reported link between intramuscular Vitamin K and childhood cancer prompted a number of studies that have yielded inconsistent results. The possibility of a small risk may exist, but we currently have inadequate information.

I/we, _____ and _____ are the parents of _____, born at home on _____. We have read this form and understand the medical recommendations to administer a Vitamin K injection to this baby.

_____ *I/We give permission for this newborn to receive a Vitamin K injection. We release Center for Natural Birth and agents from any and all liability that may be result from administration of Vitamin K to this infant.*

_____ *I/We give permission for this newborn to receive an **Initial Dose** of Oral Vitamin K. We release Center for Natural Birth and agents from any and all liability that may be result from administration of Vitamin K to this infant.*

_____ *I/We understand the risks and refuse a Vitamin K injection for our baby. We release Center for Natural Birth and agents from any and all liability that may result from our decision to refuse a Vitamin K injection.*

Mother's Signature

Partner's Signature

Date

Witness's Signature

Midwife's Signature

Date