

Rocket® Amnioscopes: Alternatives to the use of ethyl chloride

Dear Customer,

We recommend that Rocket® Amnioscopes should *not* be used with ethyl chloride spray. Ref: URGENT FIELD SAFETY NOTICE-Rocket FBS Amnioscopes. Aug 2019.

When included in the protocol, ethyl chloride is used to stimulate a hyperaemic response, to increase local blood flow to aid sampling.

However, not all clinicians choose to use ethyl chloride when performing FBS and the technique can be safely performed without use of the spray.

Rocket Medical is unable to recommend a specific alternative; however, clinicians may choose to investigate other ways to stimulate hyperaemia: For example, Pearson, 1976, recommended that the scalp be rubbed with a dental swab to induce a flush, if ethyl chloride failed to induce such a response. Jorensen 2006 also described inducing hyperaemia via a physical stimulus.

If there are concerns regarding fetal pain relief, it should be noted that a change to the CTG trace in response to a painful stimulus is typically considered a reassuring sign.

References:

- Higgins C. (2014). 'Fetal scalp blood sampling', Acutecaretesting.org, <https://acutecaretesting.org/en/articles/fetal-scalp-blood-sampling>.
- Pearson J.F. (1976). 'Fetal blood sampling and gas exchange', Journal of Clinical Pathology; s3-10, pp31-34.
- Jørgensen J.S. (2006). 'Neonatology – Get in control of fetal scalp blood sampling', Acutecaretesting.org, <https://acutecaretesting.org/en/articles/neonatology-get-in-control-of-fetal-scalp-blood-sampling>.
- Clark S.L., Gimovsky M.L. and Miller F.C. (1982). 'Fetal heart rate response to scalp blood sampling', American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 144(6) pp 706-708.
- Arulkumarany, S., Ingemarsson, I. and Ratnam, S.S. (1987). 'Fetal Heart Rate Response to Scalp Stimulation as a Test of Fetal Well-Being in Labour', Asia. Oceania Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 13: pp 131-135. doi:10.1111/j.1447-0756.1987.tb00238.x

AFFECTED CODES

Rocket® Fetal Blood Sampling Kits

R57012
R57012-00-SW
R57013
R57013-00-SW
R57018
R57018-00-SW
R57024
R57024-00-SW
R57026
R57026-00-SW
R57026-NI-SW
R57027
R57028
R57028-00-SW
R57029-NUSX

Rocket® Amnioscopes

R57016-NS
R57016-PLUS-NS
R57016-LUME-NS
R57016-LUME
R57017

Customer Information Bulletins

for all of our products can be found on our web site at:
<https://sales.rocketmedical.com>

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