

STAN in labour

What is this?

STAN is a type of monitoring that uses computer analysis of your baby's heart beat to determine if he/she is experiencing hypoxia (lack of oxygen) in labour. STAN is short for ST Analysis (ST is part of the ECG wave).

Why do I need it?

It allows us to have an extra layer of information to help us understand if your baby is coping well in labour or if we need to take some measures to improve his/her environment (these might include changing your position, giving you fluids through a cannula, slowing your contractions or helping to deliver your baby).

We may suggest using STAN if you need continuous monitoring and you have a risk factor such as Meconium or use of Oxytocin (the hormone drip).

What does it involve?

STAN is attached through an FSE (a clip on baby's head) that picks up your baby's ECG wave and analyses it. The clip is attached to a small pad on your inner thigh to pick up the signal.

It is not unusual for us to have to reapply the FSE due to poor signal pickup (lots of hair or membranes can interfere with this). However, other than in exceptional circumstances, we will only apply two during your labour.

What are the benefits?

Using STAN will:

- enable us to have continuous information about how well oxygenated your baby is
- mean that we don't intervene with your labour unless your baby needs us to
- mean that you will not need a FBS (Fetal Blood Sample) which is a blood sample from baby's scalp during labour.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the use of STAN please ask your midwife.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690