

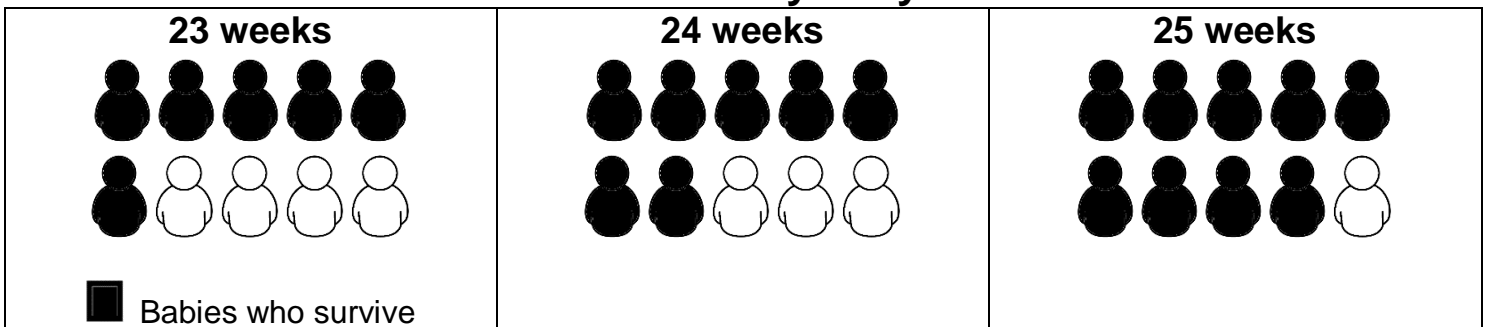


The Very Early Baby Parent Information Leaflet

Having a new baby is an exciting event, but if your baby is born very early this can be stressful. We want you to have the most up-to-date information about what it means to be born this early. This may help you with decisions you are asked to make at this time.

Each baby is different. The information below shows survival for babies born in the North of England and admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

What are the chances my baby will survive?



Based on our previous experience and national recommendations, our advice is:

- 22 weeks; intensive care may be offered in some situations after detailed discussion
- 23 weeks; intensive care is offered
- 24 weeks and above; intensive care is given

Other factors, as well as being born very early, can affect whether a baby survives and whether they have long term problems. These include:

- Multiple births (twins, triplets)
- Babies with other abnormalities or genetic problems
- Infection in the womb
- Leaking of fluid from the womb for days or weeks before delivery
- Babies who are smaller than average

The needs of each family are different and your needs will be discussed with you.

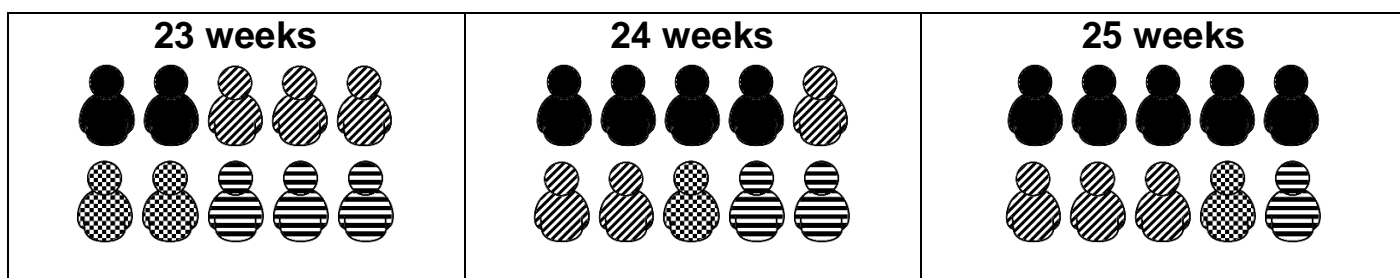
If my baby survives, will he/she have problems in the future?

The following information is provided to help you better understand the concerns if your baby is born very early. We have defined different kinds of disabilities as follows:

	Movement	Understanding & learning	Hearing	Eyesight
Mild disability	Does not cause major problems on a day to day basis e.g. may be clumsy/struggle with pencil work	Learning difficulties e.g may need extra help with school work	Mild hearing loss, but does not need hearing aids	Likely to need glasses
Moderate disability	May have a condition called cerebral palsy*, but can walk	Needs extra support to be able to learn	Needs hearing aids	Poor eyesight, even with glasses
Severe disability	Unable to walk without help	Likely to need lifelong care	Deaf	Blind

*Cerebral palsy: a condition that affects muscle control and movement

If my baby survives, what are the chances he/she will have a disability?



No disability
 Mild disability
 Moderate disability
 Severe disability

- Some problems only become clear when a child is older (e.g school age).
- Approximately 2 out of 3 children born very early will need some extra help at school. The main problems seem are problems with attention and short term memory.
- Approximately one out of ten children born very early have autism spectrum disorder (a condition that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around them).

It is important to remember that a baby's family and surroundings play a very important role in development. Your Doctor and/or physiotherapist can give you more information about how to help your baby's development.

We hope this information is useful to you and your family. We are here to support you. If you have any questions please ask us.

For further information

Contact details

Neonatal Consultant or Sister

Please ask for details of your local contacts

Useful Resources

Charitable organisations:

Tiny Lives: <http://www.tinylives.org.uk/>

BLISS: www.bliss.org.uk.

NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/premature-early-labour/>

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): Freephone: 0800 032 0202

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