



Glycerol Toxicity from Slushies



Can present with nausea, abdominal pain, headache, drowsiness, seizure or decreased GCS with profound hypoglycaemia

Glycerol adds sweetness and helps slushy ice drinks keep their consistency

Just one slushy in a child <16kg can result in toxic levels

- Take a thorough history & manage ABCs
 - Symptoms usually occur within 1 hour of slushie consumption
- **Check blood sugar**
- *Follow local trust protocol for metabolic screening of hypoglycaemic children*
- **Treat hypoglycaemia with 2-3ml/kg of 10% dextrose bolus & maintenance infusion, as per ALS/APLS**
- Check blood sugar every 5 mins until >4 mmol/l
- Refer to Paediatrics/PICU for admission
- Check a gas (lactic acidosis) & consider urine for glycerol levels
- Consider reporting to Toxbase, FSA or FSS

[Complete TOXBASE's Product of High Interest reporting questionnaire](#)

[Report a food safety incident | Food Standards Agency](#)

[Glycerol intoxication syndrome in young children, following the consumption of slush ice drinks | Archives of Disease in Childhood](#)

For Safety Alerts and RCEM issued Safety Flashes see:

<https://rcem.ac.uk/safety-3/>