

Large for Gestational Age (LGA)

Large for gestational age (LGA) means that your baby's weight is in the upper 90% of all babies. In other words, your baby is bigger than average for their number of weeks at birth.

Often, this is found when you are pregnant. Sometimes, it is only found once your baby is born. We decide if your baby is LGA by looking at their weight, sex, and weeks at birth.

Your baby's weight can be caused by many things such as family background and what happens during your pregnancy. If your baby is LGA, you can expect these things after your baby is born:

- Stay in hospital for at least 12 hours
- At least 3-4 blood sugar checks for your baby (requires a small drop of blood from your baby's heel)
- Temperature, breathing, and heart rate checks for your baby
- Making sure your baby is eating well

Questions from Parents:

Q: If my baby gets low blood sugar, how would you treat it?

A: We would give your baby breastmilk or formula. Your healthcare team may also decide to give a dextrose medication.

If you do not have enough breastmilk yet, formula and donor breastmilk are both feeding options. Ask your nurse about donor breastmilk.

Q: What if my baby is not feeding well? What happens if my baby loses too much weight?

A: Feeding your baby can be hard! It often gets better with practice and time. Ask your nurse to help you. If your nurse thinks you need even more help, we will have a lactation consultant come see you after your baby is 24 hours old. There are many ways to feed your baby. If you are interested in donor breastmilk, please speak with your nurse.

Q: What happens if my baby or I are having problems?

A: We may decide to keep you in hospital a bit longer to make sure you are healthy or have a plan before going home.