

British doctors use inert gas to save baby

April 9 2010

(AP) -- British doctors say they have used an inert gas to prevent brain injury in a baby boy who was born in critical condition.

The treatment with xenon gas is experimental and has not been used elsewhere, the doctors at St. Michael's Hospital in Bristol said Friday.

When Riley Joyce was born recently, he couldn't breathe or maintain a pulse, and showed signs of [brain injury](#).

The doctors say they resuscitated him and used xenon gas to cool his brain to reduce the risk of permanent damage. [Xenon](#) is a rare, inert gas present in normal air.

Laboratory tests have shown it can double the protective effect of cooling the [brain](#).

After a week, Riley was alert and eating.

Doctors plan to use the gas on at least 12 babies before starting a bigger trial.

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: British doctors use inert gas to save baby (2010, April 9) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-04-british-doctors-inert-gas-baby.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.