

INTRAPERITONEAL INJECTION OF GLUCOSE

If a lamb greater than 5 hours old is suffering from hypothermia, it is essential to provide it with an energy source prior to warming. This will help prevent hypoglycemic seizures that can occur when a lamb is warmed up. If the lamb is still strong enough to hold its head up and is conscious, tubing with 50 ml/kg of colostrum is usually sufficient to provide the energy required. If however, the lamb is extremely weak or comatose it should be given an injection directly into the abdomen prior to placing in the warming box. Attempting to tubefeed a comatose lamb could easily result in aspiration and death.

1) Equipment required:

- 20g x 1-1 1/2 inch sterile needle
- 60ml sterile syringe
- antiseptic spray (tincture of iodine)
- 50% dextrose solution
- freshly boiled water

2) Preparation of solution (for average 4.5kg lamb)

- draw 20mls of 50% dextrose into the syringe
- draw 30mls of freshly boiled water into the syringe and mix gently
- this mixture will be an appropriate temperature for injecting

3) Administration of solution

- hold lamb by forelegs with body hanging down against your legs.
- injection site is 1" below and 1/2" to the side of the navel
- spray site with antiseptic
- insert needle pointing *towards the tailhead*
- inject the solution slowly over 10 - 15 seconds (no resistance should be felt)
- you may inject the lamb in the neck with long acting antibiotics

4) Lamb can now safely be placed in the warming box

5) Check temperature of lamb every 20-30 minutes

Adapted from David Henderson