

# NEONATAL SEPSIS

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## **Superficial infections:Local**

- Omphalitis: Any redness/induration around the umbilicus or pus draining
- Oral thrush
- Conjunctivitis

## **Systemic infections(Neonatal Sepsis)**

# **Bacterial Sepsis in Neonate**

## **Definition :**

**Clinical syndrome of infection with bacterimia in first month of life.**



- **May get predominantly localized to lung (Pneumonia)**
- **May be localized to meninges (meningitis)**

# Bacterial Sepsis in Neonate

## Patterns

### Early Onset

- Within 72 hrs of birth
- Complicated pregnancy +
- Maternal Genital tract
- Fulminant course
- Pneumonia
- 5-50 % mortality

### Late Onset

- Symptoms beyond 72 hrs of birth
- Complicated pregnancy  $\pm$
- Maternal Genital tract / Environmental
- Slower progression
- Meningitis
- 2-6 % mortality

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Major Risk Factors

- Ruptured membranes > 24 hrs.
- Maternal Fever (100.4°F(38°C))
- Chorionamnionitis
- Sustained fetal heart rate >160/min
- Multiple obstetric procedures

## Minor Risk Factors

- Ruptured membranes > 12 hrs.
- Foul smelling liquor
- Maternal Fever > 99.5°F (37.5°C)
- Low APGAR < 5 at 1 min, < 7 at 5 min
- Prematurity
- Multiple gestation

**Presence of 1 major or 2 minor risk factors ->  
High Risk of Sepsis**

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Pathogenesis

- Infection in the birth canal
- Colonization of skin, umbilical stump, nasopharynx, conjunctiva, etc.
- Transient bacteremia
- Invasion of blood stream
- Metastatic foci
- Meningitis, etc.

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Risk factors for Community acquired sepsis

- Bottle feeding
- Poor hygiene
- Poor cord care
- Over crowding



# Neonatal Sepsis

## Risk factors for Late onset sepsis (LOS)

- Prolonged hospitalization
- Prematurity
- LBW
- Previous antibiotic use
- Invasive procedures
- Presence of foreign material (ET Tubes/  
catheters)
- Lack of disposables
- Over crowding / understaffing



**Infection > SIRS**

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graph TD; A["Infection > SIRS"] --> B["Sepsis -<br/>• Systemic response to infection with bacteria :<br/>SIRS with hypotension"]; B --> C["Severe Sepsis -<br/>• Sepsis with organ dysfunction, hypoperfusion or hypotension<br/>• Changes in mental status, oliguria, hypoxemia or lactic acidosis"]; C --> D[" "];
```

**Sepsis –**

- Systemic response to infection with bacteria :  
SIRS with hypotension

**Severe Sepsis –**

- Sepsis with organ dysfunction, hypoperfusion or hypotension
- Changes in mental status, oliguria, hypoxemia or lactic acidosis



## **Septic shock –**

Severe Sepsis with persistent hypotension despite adequate fluid resuscitation



## **Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome (MODS) –**

Presence of altered organ function such that homeostasis can not be maintained without intervention



**Death**

# Clinical features

- Often vague , ill-defined
- Require high index of suspicion
- Non specific
- Refusal of feeds ,lethargy , poor /shrill cry,
- Hypothermia, abdominal distension, feed intolerance,vomiting
- Apnoea ,respiratory distress,
- Seizures,neck retraction,bulging fontanel
- Shock,bleeding,sclerema,renal failure

# Infection

## Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS)

### Resp:

Tachypnoea	> 2 SD
Hypoxia PaO <sub>2</sub>	< 70 mm Hg

### CVS :

Tachycardia	> 2 SD
Hypothermia	< 2 SD or hyperthermia

### Peripheral Perfusion:

Delayed Capillary Filling	> 3 Sec.
Oliguria	< 0.5 ml / kg / hr
Lactic acidosis	
Altered mental status	

### Increased or decreased white blood count:



# Investigations

- **CBC:** TLC, ANC, Bandemia, IT ratio
- **CRP**
- Micro ESR > 15 mm in first hour
- **Blood culture: gold standard for diagnosis**
- X ray chest
- CSF
- Urine culture

# Newer marker

- Procalcitonin in blood
- Normal  $<0.05\text{ng/ml}$ . It starts increasing within 2-3 hours of beginning of infection peaking by 12 hours and return in 2 days.
- Procalcitonin  $>2\text{ng/dl}$  higher sensitivity, NPV than CRP
- Can guide us in reducing unwanted use of antibiotics



# Neonatal Sepsis

## Cultures

- **Blood**
- **Urine**
- **CSF ( For Late Onset type)**

**Two positive cultures are more significant**

# Normal Neonatal CSF

<b>TEST</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>PRETERM</b>
<b>WBCs (per cm)</b>	<b>Up to 30</b>	<b>Up to 90</b>
<b>Polymorphs</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Protein (mg/dL)</b>	<b>Up to 150</b>	<b>Up to 150</b>
<b>Glucose (mg/dL)</b>	<b>35-120</b>	<b>25-65</b>

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Chest X-Ray

- Persistent focal changes with infiltrative process
- Findings similar to RDS in GBS infection

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Acute Phase Reactants - Sepsis Screen

Positive CRP ( $> 6$  mg/ L or 10 times normal)

Elevated hepatoglobin level

Micro ESR After 14 days of age 15 mm or more for the first hour is abnormal.

(Normal ESR = Age in days + 2)

If all results are -ve : Probability that infection absent = 99%

If all results are +ve : Probability of infection = 90%



# Neonatal Sepsis

## Total neutrophil count & Immature to total ratio:

- TWBC : < 5000 / micro liter or >24000
- Tot. neutrophil count : < 1000 / micro liter  
( Normal= 1,750 / $\mu$ L)
- Band / Total Neutrophil : > 0.2  
( Normal = 0.16 in 1<sup>st</sup> Day,  
0.12 after 24 Hrs.)
- Platelet Count : < 1 Lakh/mm<sup>3</sup>  
(Normal = 1.5 to 4 Lakhs /mm<sup>3</sup>)

- Increased risk of infection

**Repeat TWBC & DC at 8 - 12 hrs in a symptomatic neonate may have more predictable value than single record.**

# Neonatal Sepsis

## Lumbar Puncture

- Valuable in symptomatic infants who have risk factors for sepsis.
- CSF studies prior to antibiotic therapy is preferable

**LP in RDS is difficult**

**Interpretation is difficult if LP is traumatic**

**Sometimes meningitis may be present with normal CSF picture**



# NNF Criteria

## Suspected sepsis

- **One out of three indication for starting antibiotics**

### **1) Predisposing factors like**

- PROM >18HRS,
- chorioamnionitis, foul smelling liquor
- >3 vaginal examinations
- maternal fever,
- gastric aspirate >5 pus cells

## 2) Sepsis screen (2/4 criteria)

- TLC  $< 5000/\text{cu mm}$
- Absolute neutrophil count (ANC)  $< 1800/\text{cu mm}$
- Immature to total neutrophil ratio (IT ratio)  $> 0.2$   
Or  $> 20\%$  band cells
- Micro ESR  $\geq 15\text{mm}$  in the first hour

## 3) X ray showing pneumonia

# Treatment

## 1)Antibiotics

## 2)Supportive care

- Intravenous fluids
- Correct hypothermia
- Correct hypoglycemia
- Inotrope support: dopamine, dobutamine
- Oxygen, CPAP, Mechanical ventilation

# Indications for starting antibiotics

- (a) presence of three risk factors for early onset sepsis
- (b) presence of foul smelling liquor
- (c) presence of  $\geq 2$  antenatal risk factor(s) with a positive septic screen and
- (d) strong clinical suspicion of sepsis.

# ANTIBIOTICS

- Depending on prevalent etiologic agent and their sensitivity
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Prevent misuse of antibiotics

Clinical situation	Septicemia/pneumonia	meningitis
First line (community acquired, resistance unlikely)	Ampicillin gentamycin	Add cefotaxime
Second line Hospital acquired (some resistant strains)	Ampi/cloxacillin Genta/amikacin	Add cefotaxime
Third line (Hospital acquired, most resistant strains)	Cefotaxime or Piperacillin Tazobactam or  Ciprofloxacin, Amikacin	Add cefotaxime/meropenam /colistin



# Duration of antibiotic therapy

Diagnosis	Mode	Duration
Meningitis (with/without positive blood/CSF culture)	intravenous	21 days
Blood culture positive no meningitis	intravenous	14 days
Culture negative sepsis screen positive, clinical course consistent with sepsis	intravenous	7-10 days
Culture negative sepsis screen negative, clinical course consistent with sepsis	intravenous	5-7 days

- Exchange transfusion: when sclerema
- IVIG
- GMCSF

**THANK YOU**