

IPC Newsletter



**Mwananyamala
Regional Referral Hospital**

Who are we..?

IPC Newsletter Team is a member of the QI team at MMRH and has been issuing monthly newsletters with Medipeace to promote awareness of infection prevention and control since 2017.

IPC Newsletter Team Members



Sr. Lucy Lesso



Mr. Dominic
Fwiling'afu



Sr. Upendo Siwa

EARLY NEONATAL SEPSIS

INTRODUCTION

Neonatal sepsis is a blood infection which occurs in the first month of life, and there are two types based on the onset of disease. **Early Onset Neonatal Sepsis (EONS)** is occurring in either **the first 48-72 hours of life** or **within the first week of life** while Late Onset Neonatal Sepsis (LONS) is occurring after one week. This article will narrate the causes, prevention and control measures of early neonatal sepsis.

CAUSES & RISK FACTORS

The source of infection is usually vertical or from maternal genital tract. Some maternal conditions have been associated with an increased risk. Therefore, knowledge about these potential risk factors would help in early diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of sepsis.

< 7 Risk Factors of EONS >

1. Rupture of membranes >24 hours
2. Prolonged labor (sum of 1st and 2nd stage of labor >24 hours)
3. Foul smelling and/or meconium stained liquor
4. Single unclean or >3 sterile vaginal examination(s) during labor
5. Low birth weight (<2500 grams) or prematurity
6. Febrile illness in the mother within 2 weeks prior to delivery
7. Perinatal asphyxia (Apgar score <4 at 1 minute)

The infection from the genital tract of the mother to fetus is caused by the bacteria in vagina/cervix or in decidua, bacteria colonization in



Quiz corner

Q. What is an **inappropriate way** to prevent early neonatal sepsis below?

- 1) Intermittent presumptive treatment (IPT) of malaria
- 2) Screening and treatment of any maternal infection during pregnancy
- 3) Clean birth practices at health facilities
- 4) No breastfeeding
- 5) Ensuring optimal cord care immediately after birth

✂ If you know the answer, please send it to :

ipc.newsletterteam@gmail.com

* Three winners will be selected randomly each month and **will have small gifts.**

amnion or chorion. If these bacteria go through the fetal vessels or cross the amnion, those will reach to amniotic cavity and enter the fetus through the infected amniotic liquid. Through this route, the blood will be infected and the sepsis will be caused.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. **Intermittent presumptive treatment (IPT) of malaria** through pregnancy
2. **Screening and treatment of any maternal infection** during pregnancy (syphilis and vaccination against diseases like tetanus)
3. **Clean birth practices at health facilities** (good hand washing, hygienic umbilical cord care)
4. **Early and exclusive breastfeeding**
5. **Ensuring optimal cord care immediately** after birth



CONCLUSIONS

EONS is the major cause of deaths. Most of victims are neonates, who are exposed to risk factors. The risk which pregnant mothers and their neonates have should be considered special. To deal with causes and risk factors, is the best preventive and control approach.

Written by: Mahmoud Omary, an Intern Doctor at Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital

REFERENCES

- Buonocore, G., Klingenberg, C., Kornelisse, R. F., Maier, R. F., & Stocker, M. (2018). Culture-Negative Early-Onset Neonatal Sepsis
- Camacho-gonzalez, A., Spearman, P. W., Diseases, P. I., Stoll, B. J., Brumley, G. W., & Drive, U. (2013). Neonatal infections Disease: Evaluation of Neonatal Sepsis.