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Congenital Infections in Neonates: Diagnostic Advances and Treatment Strategies

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Congenital infections such as CMV, toxoplasmosis, syphilis, and Zika remain a significant cause of neonatal morbidity. Jonas Mertens from Munich offers a detailed update on the diagnostic advances, including molecular testing and early imaging that are reshaping early detection and prognosis. He presents an evidence-based approach to screening, symptomatology, and long-term follow-up for affected neonates. Mertens will also review emerging therapeutic interventions, including antiviral regimens for congenital CMV and antibiotic therapy for vertically transmitted bacterial

infections. The lecture is geared toward neonatologists and general pediatricians involved in new-born care, with emphasis on early intervention to reduce long-term neurodevelopmental impact.

Biography

Jonas Mertens is a neonatologist and infectious disease consultant at the University of Munich Medical Centre. He received his MD from Heidelberg University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins. He leads research on congenital infections and is a contributor to the German National Neonatal Infection Registry.