

Command of Premature New-Born

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Introduction

Neonatology is a subspecialty of paediatrics that consists of the medicinal care of new-born infants, especially the ill or premature infant. The tiniest patients of neonatologists are new-born infants who require special medical care due to prematurity, low birth weight, congenital malformations (birth defects, intrauterine growth retardation,), pulmonary hypoplasia, and sepsis. It is usually practiced in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) as it is a hospital-based specialty.

Neonatal Congenital malformations (Birth defects)

Babies born before the 37th week of gestation are considered premature. All premature babies experience complications; being born too early can cause short-term and long-term health problems for preemies. In general, the earlier a baby is born, the higher the risk of complications. Birth weight also plays an important role, too. The most common causes of neonatal deaths are preterm birth complications, new born infections and birth asphyxia.

Neonatal Infectious Diseases

Neonatal Infectious Diseases are the infections of the neonate (new-born) during the neonatal period or first four weeks after birth. Infections may be contracted by Transplacental transfer in utero, in the birth canal during delivery (perinatal), or by other means after birth. Some neonatal infections are apparent soon after delivery, while others may develop postpartum within the first week or month. Some infections acquired in the neonatal period do not become apparent until much later such as HIV, hepatitis B and malaria and there is a higher risk of infection with preterm or low birth weight neonates.

Neonatal Surgery and Nursing

Neonatal surgery is the sub-specialty of paediatrics surgery which is dealing with all the surgical operations in new-born infants, especially the ill or premature new-born. It is responsible for the treatment of many disorders through surgical operations in new-born infants and playing vital role in saving lives at birth stage by new-born and fetal surgery. Neonatal surgeons are the ones who perform surgeries including chest, abdominal and urological defects.

Neonatal Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Nutrition

Neonatal Hepatology is a branch of medicine dealing with the study,

prevention, diagnosis and management of diseases that affect the liver, gallbladder, biliary tree and pancreas. Viral infection and inborn metabolic disorders are the two main causes of Acute Liver Failure in infants.

Neonatal Gastroenterology developed as a sub-specialty of paediatrics and gastroenterology. It is concerned with treating the gastrointestinal tract, liver and pancreas from infancy until age eighteen. The principal diseases it is concerned with are acute diarrhoea, persistent vomiting, gastritis, and problems with the development of the gastric tract. Gastrointestinal disorders in neonates range from minor to life threatening, and short- to long-term or chronic. Neonatal Jaundice is one of the most common conditions needing medical attention in babies. Gastrointestinal food allergies are not rare in infants and children.

Neonatal Nutrition is essential, especially to promote growth and sustain the physiologic requirements at the various stages of a child's development in the first couple weeks of life. Breast Feeding and complementary feeding has important ingredients that are not found in any infant formula, to build the baby's immune system.

Neonatal Genetics

New-born genetic screening is the practice of testing every new-born for certain harmful or treatable genetic disorders in new-born infants. Babies with these conditions appear normal at birth. It is only with time that the conditions affects the baby's brain or physical development or causes other medical problems. Early diagnosis and treatment can result in normal growth and development and can reduce morbidity and mortality.

Neonatal Cardiology

Neonatal Cardiology is the fetal diagnosis and treatment given for pregnant women at risk of or known to be carrying babies with heart problems. Neonatal heart conditions mainly includes heart defects associated with other types of disease, such as diaphragmatic hernia, heart muscle disease (cardiomyopathy) or infection (myocarditis), Heart problems due to lung masses, etc. Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common, congenital disorder in new-borns.

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