

Big Baby Breathing Hard

CRUCIAL MEASURES for the EARLY IDENTIFICATION & TIMELY TREATMENT of RESPIRATORY DISTRESS in INFANTS ≥ 34 WEEKS GESTATION

- Identify all infants with one hour or more of respiratory distress.
(Definition: persistent grunting, persistent retractions and/or flaring, SaO₂ <94% in room air, often coupled with poor perfusion and/or central cyanosis)
 - With severe respiratory distress begin treatment immediately.
 - Just an increased respiratory rate doesn't predict a poor outcome.
 - Many normal infants will breathe 60-90 BPM after birth.
 - Place in 100% O₂ by hood.
 - Place an oximeter.
 - Order a chest x-ray.
 - Measure, correct, and follow the mean blood pressures (MBPs).
 - Obtain an arterial blood gas via an arterial stick. If necessary place a UAC. Capillary or venous blood gases cannot be used to assess these infants.
- This applies to:
- Infants with persistent respiratory distress \geq one hour.
 - Infants requiring supplemental oxygen \geq one hour.
 - Obtain a blood culture and CBC and start on antibiotics.
 - Check, correct, and follow glucose levels.
 - Correct hypothermia.
 - Assess the Richardson Score *(See below)*.



NB: Call your covering/consulting Neonatologist when the infant is **between 2-3 hours of age**. Be ready to discuss whatever test or x-ray results are available.

NB: Even if you have been unable to generate all the necessary data or do a Richardson Score **a phone call should be made to the Neonatologist between 2-3 hours of age**. This applies 24/7.



RICHARDSON SCORE			
Gestational age	38 or more	=	0
	<38 weeks	=	1
Worst arterial pH (and concomitant pCO ₂)	≥ 7.30 , any pCO ₂	=	0
	7.25-7.29, pCO ₂ <50	=	0
	7.25-7.29, pCO ₂ ≥ 50	=	1
	<7.25, any pCO ₂	=	2
Ratio of Arterial PaO ₂ % Inspired O ₂	2.5 or more	=	0
	1.2-2.49	=	2
	<1.2	=	4
Lowest mean BP	≥ 30 mm Hg	=	0
	<30 mm Hg	=	1
TOTAL RICHARDSON SCORE		=	___

INTERPRETATION of RICHARDSON SCORE		
SCORE	RISK of ASSISTED VENTILATION FOR >3 DAYS or DEATH	RISK of ECMO, NITRIC OXIDE and/or DEATH
0	1.2%	0.1%
1	5.3%	0.0%
2	4.4%	0.8%
3	15.0%	1.9%
4	17.8%	3.0%
5	31.5%	3.2%
6	43.8%	13.5%
7	51.4%	8.6%
8	50.0%	20.0%

Adapted from G. Escobar, Revised 10/21/03