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Neonatal

“Neonatal” means newborn. These special patients have special needs, because they aren’t able to communicate what they’re feeling.

Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS)

Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) is a condition that affects about 10 percent of premature babies, whose lungs are often underdeveloped. Mature lungs produce a chemical called surfactant, which keeps little air sacs in the lungs from collapsing and makes breathing possible. Premature babies' lungs are often lacking this important chemical. They will appear short of breath, breathing rapidly and flaring their nostrils. They may even turn blue, and eventually will die if not treated. Giving the baby oxygen may help; if not, a synthetic surfactant can be administered until the lungs develop enough to produce surfactant on their own.

Newborn Hearing Test

It's important to find out as early as possible whether or not a child can hear, to make sure they develop normal language skills. Obviously, newborns can't be given the same hearing tests as children and adults. New technology now makes it possible to detect whether or not a newborn can hear by playing a sound in their ear and observing their brainwaves through sticker-like electrodes. This doesn't hurt at all, and doctors are able to tell whether or not the baby's brain is responding to the sounds.

Newborn Jaundice

When the body breaks down old red blood cells, a byproduct called bilirubin is produced. Part of the liver's job is to process bilirubin so that the body can get rid of it. Sometimes newborn's livers aren't fully developed, and bilirubin may build up in the body. The result is called jaundice, which causes a slight yellowing of the skin and eyes.

Usually this only lasts about two weeks, at which the baby's liver has developed enough to process the bilirubin, and there are no complications or lasting effects. Sometimes it takes longer for the liver to develop, especially in premature babies. In this case, a special light is used to help break down the bilirubin so that it does not reach toxic levels.

PRODUCT	PRODUCER	PARTNER	INDICATION
Curosurf	Dey, L.P.		Surfactant to treat infants with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS)
ALGO 3 Newborn Hearing Screening system.	Natus Medical Inc.		Newborn hearing screener
neoBLUE LED Phototherapy light	Natus Medical Inc.		Phototherapy for newborn jaundice