

THE NEONATAL HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Objectives

To know **THE NEONATAL HISTORY AND** 
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

Past medical history:-

1- prenatal history

- general health of the mother in the pregnancy.
- antenatal care visits.
- diseases during pregnancy_ DM , HT
- infection or fever.
- drugs given in pregnancy.
- X- ray taken.
- bleeding.

2- natal history

- gestational age(weeks of pregnancy).
- mode of delivery.
- place of birth.
- drugs taken during delivery.
- condition of the baby.
- birth weight.

3- post natal history

- if the newborn develops jaundice, fit or fever.
- if admitted to neonatal care unit.
- time of passage of meconium or urination.
- any operation done or given blood.

Nutritional(Feeding)history

- breast, bottle, or mixed feeding.

Developmental history

- visual contact to the mother.
- social smile.

Immunization history

- BCG.
- oral polio- vaccine.
- zero dose hepatitis B vaccine.

Drug and Allergy history

Family history

- previous prematurity.
- previous neonatal death.

Social history

- age and occupation of parents.
- marital status and consanguinity.
- smoking or drinking habits.
- detail about the house.
- income per month.

Review of systems

- general points :-

1- feeding

2- activity

3- sleep pattern

4- fever

B- PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

* General examination

- growth and nutritional status.
- maturity status(physical criteria).
- abnormal features.
- colour :- pale, cyanosed, jaundiced, or plethoric.
- posture :- paralyzed, floppiness or irritable.
- abnormal sounds :- stridor.
- abdominal movement.
- presence of equipments :- mask, nasogastric tube or canula.
- face :-

1. flaring alar nasi _ respiratory distress.
2. look for bruising _ forceps delivery.
3. look for ears _ maturity.
4. look for eyes _ bleeding or jaundice.
5. abnormalities of the head.
6. examination of the mouth _ cleft palate.

* Head and Neck

- inspection :-

1. signs of maturity.
2. abnormal features.
3. any discharge.
4. color of the face.
5. any neck mass or goiter.
6. associated equipments.

- palpation :-

- a. maturity.
- b. mass or tumor.
- c. fontanel.
- d. reflexes _ sucking reflex.

* Chest and Heart

- inspection :-

1. pattern of breathing.
2. signs of respiratory distress.
3. abnormal sounds _ stridor.

- palpation :-

- auscultation :-

* Abdomen

- inspection :-

1. umbilical cord clamp.
2. any umbilical hernia or umbilical infection.
3. umbilical blood vessels.
4. examination of genitalia.

* Nervous system

- 1- posture _ normal, floppy, or paralyzed.
- 2- activity _ signs of CNS insult.
- 3- feeding.
- 4- crying and irritability.
- 5- alertness.
- 6- tone and power.
- 7- reflexes :-
 - sucking
 - grasp
 - Moro
 - rooting
- 8- cranial nerves.

* Examinations left lastly

1. examination of hips.
2. examination of genitalia.
3. groin _ hernia.
4. anus and lower back.
5. occipito-frontal diameter.
6. blood pressure.
7. femoral pulses.
8. ophthalmoscope.

NOTE :-

The easiest way of examining the newborn is from the head to the feet .