

<b>FEVER</b>
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**FEVER IN NEONATES**

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**Abstract:** *Fever in a neonate is one of the symptoms causing concern and requiring admission to NICU. Fever in neonates is defined as rectal temperature  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ . It is important to differentiate between environmental exposure hyperthermia and fever in neonates. Neonates with environmental hyperthermia are usually active, alert and have stable vital parameters. Once the environmental factors causing hyperthermia are corrected, their body temperature normalizes rapidly without any other treatment being required. After ruling out hyperthermia due to environmental causes, all neonates with fever should have complete sepsis work up including cerebrospinal fluid analysis to rule out serious bacterial infection. When there is no apparent focus of fever, empiric antibiotics should be started in these neonates based on local antibiogram without waiting for other laboratory reports.*

**Keywords:** *Hyperthermia, Neonate, Serious Bacterial Infection, Fever without focus.*

**Points to Remember**

- *Fever in neonates may be a manifestation of underlying serious bacterial infection.*
- *Detailed history and examination should be done for all neonates with fever.*
- *Environmental hyperthermia is one of the important reasons for increased body temperature in neonates and should be ruled out in stable, well looking neonates.*
- *Dehydration is an important cause of fever and is often associated with hypernatremia.*
- *All neonates with fever and rash must be evaluated.*
- *Neonates having fever without focus should undergo full sepsis workup.*
- *All neonates with fever should be admitted and started on intravenous antibiotics after sending investigations.*

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