



Apnea of Prematurity & Infancy



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National Medical Director, Neonatal Resource Services | Optum Health Solutions

3/9/22

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Disclosure Information

- No pertinent financial disclosures or conflicts of interest

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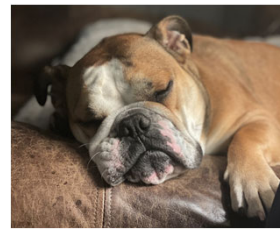
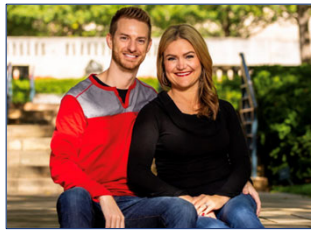
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A little about me

- Dr. Jamie Rosterman
- NRS Medical Director, HFS cross-trained
- Optum since Oct. 2021
- Practice Neonatology part time at Pediatrix Medical Group of KS
- Clinical interests: ELGAN, Quality improvement, Education
- Reside in Kansas, Missouri
- Married to my best friend – 10 years, 3 kiddos, 1 fur baby



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Question # 1 - A little about you

How long have you worked for Optum NRS?

- A. Less than 1 year
- B. 1-5 years
- C. 5-10 years
- D. Greater than 10 years

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Question # 2 - A little about you

What type of degree do you have?

- A. LPN
- B. RN
- C. BSN
- D. APRN

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Question # 3 – A little about you

What's your favorite past time?

- A. Spending time with family/friends
- B. Traveling
- C. Physical activity
- D. Shopping (including Amazon)
- E. All of the above

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Question # 4 – A little about you

Who is excited to learn about apnea?

- A. Absolutely - Lets do this!
- B. Kinda/sorta/meh
- C. Really? Do I have to?
- D. Definitely not!

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Objectives/Plan

- Define apnea
- Review pathophysiology
- Discuss different types of apnea
- Differentiate between AOP and apnea of infancy
- Review diagnosis and treatment options
- Sprinkle in some questions and cases
- Highlight the NRS guidelines

Clinical Performance Guideline Neonatal Resource Services Apnea and Bradycardia	Medical Necessity Guideline
<p>Purpose: To provide guidelines for the diagnosis, management, optimal treatment and follow-up of neonatal and infantile apnea.</p> <p>Target Client Population: Preterm and full-term infants with the following diagnosis(es): Apnea, with or without bradycardia, and/or significant hypoxic desaturations.</p>	
<p>Background</p> <p>Apnea of prematurity</p> <p>Apnea of prematurity (AOP) is a complication of prematurity as a result of an immature respiratory control center. It reflects physiologic immaturity, not a pathologic process. (Martin, 2020) The frequency and severity of symptoms are inversely proportional to gestational age.</p> <p>AOP occurs in infants <37 weeks gestational age and is defined as sudden cessation of breathing lasting ≥ 20 seconds or accompanied by oxygen desaturation or bradycardia. (Kondamudi and Witt, 2019)</p> <p>The AAP defines AOP as cessation of breathing for 20 seconds or longer, or a shorter respiratory pause associated with bradycardia (<100 bpm), cyanosis, pallor, and/or marked hypotonia. (Eichenwald, 2016)</p> <p>Apnea and bradycardia experienced during feeding is not directly related to AOP. Events are not more prevalent post-feeding. (Stocum, 2009)</p> <p>Feed-related events that do not cease following interruption of the feeding should prompt for immediate caregiver feeding education, training and review of the discharge plan.</p> <p>Gastroesophageal Reflux (GER) is rarely associated with AOP.</p> <p>Cessation of AOP typically occurs as the infant approaches 40 weeks' post menstrual age (PMA) and beyond.</p> <p>In Henderson-Smart's study, AOP stopped by 37 weeks' PMA in 92% of infants and by 40 weeks' PMA in more than 98% of infants. The proportion of infants with AOP persisting beyond 38 weeks' PMA is higher in infants who were 24 to 26 weeks' gestational age at birth compared with those born at ≥28 weeks' gestation. (Eichenwald, 2016)</p> <p>The clinical goal is establishment of regular breathing patterns in infants to facilitate a safe discharge from the NICU and, in select patients, outpatient follow up until they "outgrow" their respiratory control immaturity.</p> <p>Supportive and pharmacological treatments are incorporated into clinical practice to</p>	

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Question # 5 - Audience Response

How long does cessation of breathing last for it to be defined as apnea?

- A. 10 secs
- B. 15 secs
- C. 20 secs or a shorter time period with associated brady or desat
- D. 25 secs or a shorter time period with associated brady or desat

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Apnea – What is it?

• Definition

– cessation of respiratory airflow/breathing for more than 20 seconds

or

– shorter respiratory pause associated with oxygen desaturation or bradycardia (<100 bpm) in infants

Apnea of Infancy

- Apnea in an infant older than 37 weeks gestation at birth
 - Pathologic

Apnea of Prematurity

- Apnea in an infant younger than 37 weeks gestation at birth
 - Physiologic

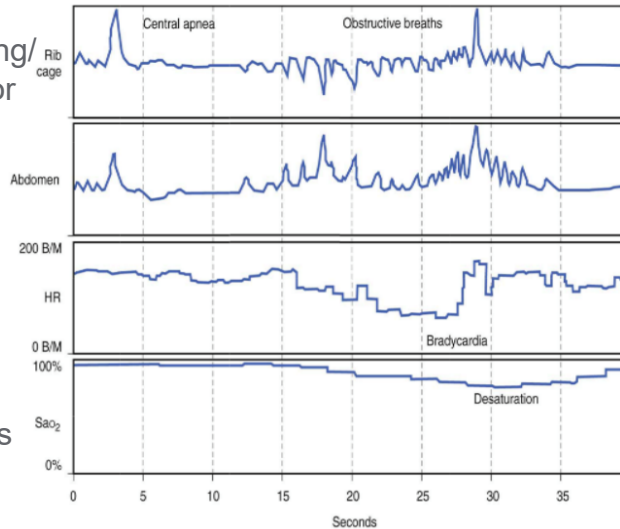
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Apnea – What is it?

Cessation of breathing/
respiratory air flow for
more than 20 secs

Or

Shorter respiratory
pause associated
with oxygen
desaturation or
bradycardia in infants



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Apnea – Why is it important?

- One of the most common diagnoses in the NICU
 - virtually all infants less than 28 weeks have symptoms
- Potentially harmful
- In term infants, it should be assumed to be pathologic
- Contributes to prolonged hospitalization
- Resolution is a requirement for discharge

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Apnea – Why does it happen?

(a) Higher centers of the brain (speech, emotions, voluntary control of breathing, and action potentials in motor pathways)

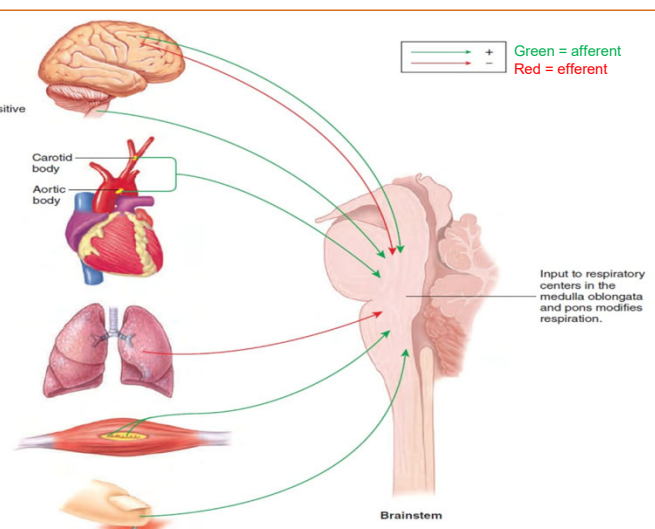
(b) Medullary (chemosensitive area) chemoreceptors
↓pH, ↑CO₂

(c) Carotid and aortic body chemoreceptors
↓pH, ↑CO₂, ↓O₂

(d) Hering-Breuer reflex (stretch receptors in lungs)

(e) Proprioceptors in muscles and joints

(f) Receptors for touch, temperature, and pain stimuli



Green = afferent
Red = efferent

Input to respiratory centers in the medulla oblongata and pons modifies respiration.

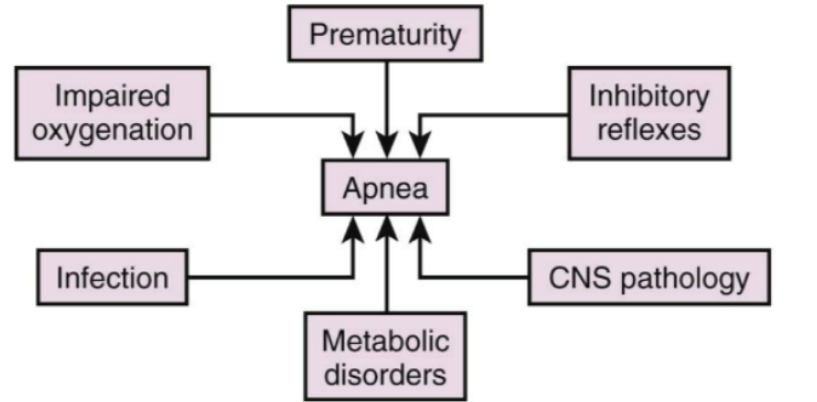
Brainstem

Erickson, E., Dobson, N., Hunt, C.E. Immature control of breathing and apnea of prematurity: the known and unknown. *Journal of Perinatology*. 2021. 41:2111–2123

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Apnea – Why does it happen?



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graph TD
    Prematurity --> Apnea
    Impaired_oxygenation[Impaired oxygenation] --> Apnea
    Inhibitory_reflexes[Inhibitory reflexes] --> Apnea
    Infection --> Apnea
    Metabolic_disorders[Metabolic disorders] --> Apnea
    CNS_pathology[CNS pathology] --> Apnea
    
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Martin RJ, et al. Pathogenesis of apnea in preterm infants. *Journal Pediatrics*. 1986;109:733

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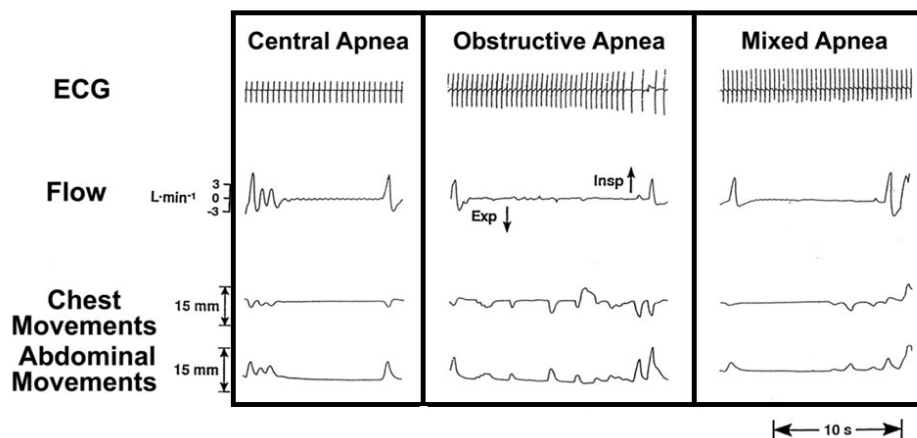
Question # 6 - Audience Response

How many types of apnea are there?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

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Apnea- What types are there?



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Apnea – What types are there?

Criteria	Central Apnea	Obstructive Apnea	Mixed Apnea	Periodic Breathing
Duration of breathing cessation	At least 20 secs	At least 20 secs	At least 20 secs	5-10 secs
Respiratory effort	Absent	Present	Absent/present	Absent
Movement of air	Absent	Reduced/absent	Reduced/absent	Reduced/absent
Brady/desat	May occur	May occur	May occur	No

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Question # 7 - Audience Response

Is Apnea of Infancy Physiologic or Pathologic?

- A. Physiologic
- B. Pathologic

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Apnea of Infancy

Apnea of Infancy

- Apnea in an infant older than 37 weeks gestation at birth
 - Pathologic

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Apnea of Infancy

- Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy
- Intrapartum maternal drug exposure
 - Narcotics, magnesium, general anesthesia, illicit drugs
- Early onset sepsis
- Congenital central nervous system malformations
- Ischemic infarction or stroke
- Temporal lobe lesions
- Metabolic causes
 - abnormalities in glucose, electrolytes, calcium
- Feeding related choking/apnea
- Congenital or acquired airway obstruction
 - Laryngomalacia, VCD, phrenic nerve injury, Pierre Robin, Stickler, Treacher Collins, Goldenhar, Crouzon, Downs syndromes
- Congenital central hypoventilation syndrome
- Traumatic brain injury
- Intracranial hemorrhage, and inflammation
 - secondary to pneumonia, sepsis, or meningitis
- BRUE

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Apnea of Infancy

- **Diagnosis**
 - Evaluation for underlying etiology of apnea
- **Management**
 - Based on diagnosis
- **Duration of Stay**
 - Depends on diagnosis
 - Up to 3 days of observation may be appropriate in most cases


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Apnea of Infancy – What do the NRS Guidelines say?

Apnea of infancy


Apnea of infancy, as opposed to AOP, refers to infants > 37 weeks' gestation at the onset of apnea and is likely to be associated with underlying etiology including hypoglycemia, seizures, infection, severe birth asphyxia, intracranial hemorrhage, stroke, drug depression, or anatomic abnormalities and warrant further investigation.

In stable term infants, heart rates as low as 70 beats per minute while sleeping are acceptable. (Benitz, 2015)

Apnea Countdown Prior to Discharge

Term

- An apnea/bradycardia countdown in a term infant should be based on etiology. Up to 3 days observation may be appropriate in the majority of such cases.


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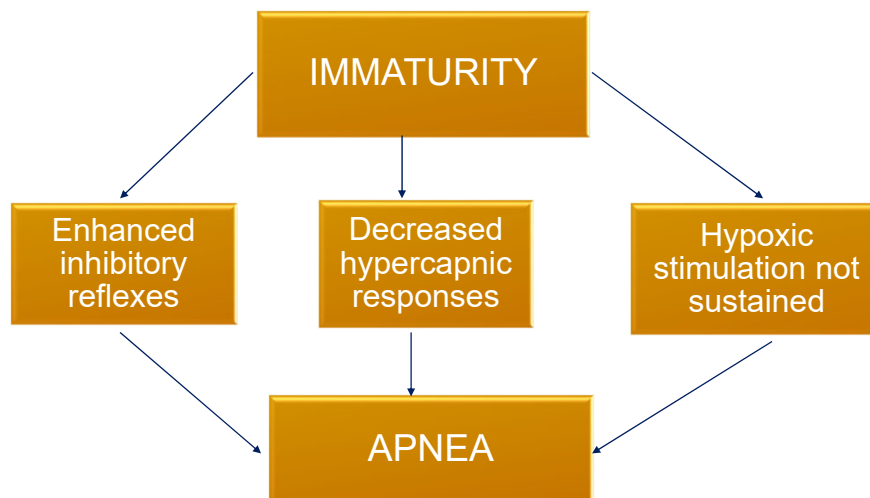
Apnea of Prematurity

Apnea of Prematurity

- Apnea in an infant younger than 37 weeks gestation at birth
 - Physiologic

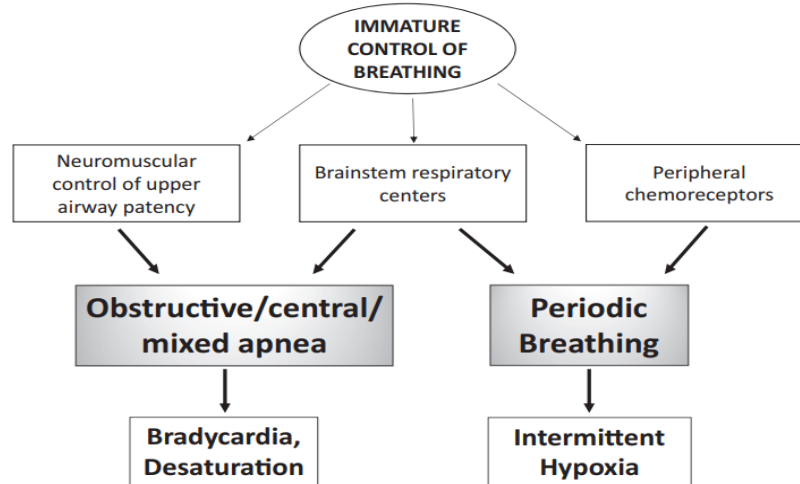
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Apnea of Prematurity – Why does it happen?



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Apnea of Prematurity– Why does it happen?



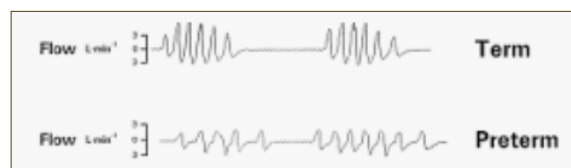
Erickson E, Dobson N, Hunt CE. Immature control of breathing and apnea of prematurity: the known and unknown. *Journal of Perinatology* (2021) 41:2111–2123
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Periodic Breathing – What is it?

- **Definition**

- Pattern of alternating breaths and brief respiratory pauses that are approx. 5-10 secs in duration
- May be accompanied by modest desats and bradys
- Absent in the first few days of life, becomes frequent at 2-4 weeks of age
- Resolves typically by 44 weeks PMA or 6 months of age
- Occurs predominantly during quiet sleep



OPTUMHealth[™] Education Weintraub Z, Cates D, et al. The morphology of periodic breathing in infants and adults. *Respiratory Physiology*. 2001. 127 (2-3): 173-814 Proprietary and Confidential. Do not distribute. 30

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Treatment – What can be done?

Measures to reduce risk

- Environmental temperature control
- Head and neck in neutral position, avoiding hyperextension or hyperflexion
- Maintain nasal patency
- Oxygen supplementation

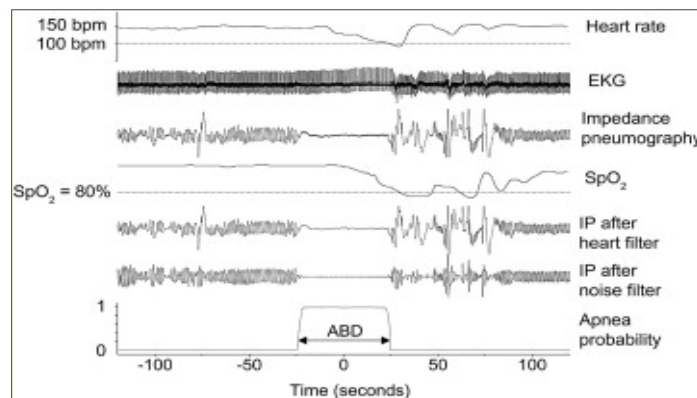
Non-invasive respiratory support

- Humidified nasal cannula
- CPAP
- NIPPV

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Diagnosis – How do you diagnose AOP?

- Cardiorespiratory and pulse oximetry monitors
 - Cessation of respiratory airflow/breathing for more than 20 seconds or shorter respiratory pause assoc. with oxygen desaturation or bradycardia



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Pneumocardiograms/ Multi-Channel Pneumograms

- Multi-channel Pneumogram: recording of respiration and HR
 - 4 channel pneumogram: measures of respiration and HR
 - 5 channel pneumogram: 4 channel + pulse oximetry
 - 6 channel pneumogram: 5 channel + pH probe monitoring
 - Grossly distinguishes between central and obstructive apnea
- Controversy in usefulness, result interpretation, normative data

Treatment Criteria	Clinical evidence supports the following:
	<p>Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apnea and bradycardia are diagnosed clinically based on the definitions above. • Pneumocardiograms (PCGs) are not recommended in the management of apnea because they have a high false-positive rate, cannot predict with accuracy the occurrence of severe apnea or death, and are not beneficial in identifying which patients should be discharged with a home monitor. (AAP, 2008)

OPTUMHealth™ Education | Ginsburg, D, Maken, K, Deming, D, et al. Etiologies of apnea of infancy. *Pediatric Pulmonology*. 2020; 55: 1495– 1502. | Proprietary and Confidential. Do not distribute. | 33

GERD and Apnea

- Controversial
- Multiple studies have failed to support relationship between GERD and apnea
 - Despite strong physiologic evidence that stimulation of laryngeal afferents elicit central apnea and laryngeal adduction
- GERD does not prolong respiratory pauses and cause apnea
- Anti-reflux meds should not be used to treat apnea

PEDIATRICS

Apnea Is Not Prolonged by Acid Gastroesophageal Reflux in Preterm Infants

Juliana M. Di Florio, BSEd; Marina Arko, RN; Meghan Whitehouse, BS; Amy Kimball, MD; and Richard J. Martin, MD

ABSTRACT: Objective: To examine the temporal relationship between apnea and gastroesophageal reflux (GER) and to assess the effect of GER on apnea duration. Methods: A total of 110 preterm infants underwent 12-hour ambulatory monitoring studies using esophageal impedance planimetry, heart rate, oxygen saturation (SpO₂), and respiratory pH. The studies were divided into GER (n = 55) and no GER (n = 55) groups. Apnea was defined as a cessation of breathing for ≥10 seconds or a decrease in SpO₂ of ≥3% for ≥10 seconds. Apnea was considered prolonged if it occurred within 30 seconds of a GER episode. Results: There were 200 GER episodes of GER. Only 15% of GER episodes were associated with apnea. There was no difference in apnea rate before, during, or after GER. There was also no difference in the rate of apnea ≥10 seconds before versus during GER. However, there was a decrease in apnea rate immediately after GER. The presence of GER during apnea did not prolong apnea duration, and GER had no effect on the heart rate, SpO₂, or heart rate during apnea. Conclusion: There is not evidence of a temporal relationship between acid-based GER and apnea in preterm infants. In addition, GER does not prolong apnea duration and does not exacerbate the resultant decrease in heart rate and SpO₂. *Pediatrics* 2003;111:1019–1026. www.pediatrics.com

ABBREVIATIONS: GER, gastroesophageal reflux; SpO₂, oxygen saturation; SpO₂A, analysis of saturation.

From the Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital of Cleveland (Dr. Di Florio); Division of Neonatology, University of Michigan (Dr. Arko); Division of Neonatology, University of Michigan (Dr. Whitehouse); Division of Neonatology, University of Michigan (Dr. Kimball); and Division of Neonatology, University of Michigan (Dr. Martin). Received for publication Dec 14, 2002; accepted for publication Feb 14, 2003. Address correspondence to Dr. Martin, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology, University Hospital of Cleveland, 11100 North Cleveland Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44130. E-mail: martin@ccf.org

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PEDIATRICS Vol. 110 No. 5 November 2003 1019

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Question # 8 - Audience Response

What are the primary methods of treatment for apnea of prematurity?

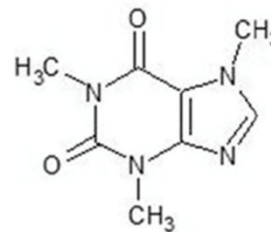
- A. General measures that reduce the risk of apnea
- B. Non-invasive respiratory support
- C. Caffeine
- D. All the above

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Treatment – Methylxanthine

Mechanism of Action

- Stimulate respiratory neural output
- Blockade of inhibitory Adenosine A₁R
- Excitation of respiratory neural output
- Blockade of A₂R on GABA neurons



Caffeine

Options

- Theophylline
- Caffeine

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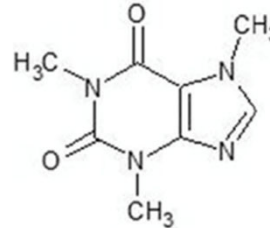
Treatment – Caffeine

Side Effects

- Tachycardia
- Feeding intolerance

Duration

- Longer half life: 60-100 hours
- Clearance: 7-10 days



Caffeine

When to Stop

- No trials have addressed when to stop
- AAP: Discontinuation should not delay discharge



Martin R. Management of apnea of prematurity. In. Garcia-Prats JA, Mallory GB ed. UpToDate. 2022. Accessed 3/4/22

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Treatment – Caffeine Current Studies

	Moderately preterm Infants with Caffeine at Home for Apnea (MoCHA) Trial	Intermittent Hypoxia and Caffeine in Infants Born Preterm (ICAF) Trial
Purpose	Study effects of caffeine in infants with resolved apnea	Study effects of caffeine on intermittent hypoxia
Primary Outcome	Number of days of hospitalization	Extent of intermittent hypoxia (number of secs below 90%) until 42.6 weeks
Number	800 participants	220 participants
Design	Randomized controlled trial	Randomized, double-blinded, placebo controlled, trial
Details	Randomized to caffeine or placebo when planned to discontinue caffeine. Continue caffeine or placebo for 28 days after discharge.	Caffeine until 36.5 weeks then randomized to caffeine until 42.6 weeks or placebo. Pulse ox continued for 1 week after stopping. MRI Brain x 2. Cytokine measurements.
Study Start	February 2019	January 2019
Completion	October 2023	May 2022

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Question # 9 - Audience Response

How long does caffeine typically last in an infant's system after discontinuation?

- A. 3 days
- B. 5 days
- C. 7 days
- D. 14 days

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Case Study # 2

Concurrent Clinical Note with InterQual

CGA: 34.5
CW: 1750

Brief History: Former 32.0wk, BW 1320g. RDS requiring NCPaP; weaned to RA 2.13. Caffeine bolus/maint. Initiated 2.11; Sepsis w/u: No abx; Hx of hypoglycemia, s/p D10W x1/resolved. Enteral feeds initiated 2.10. TPN d/c'd 2.13. Photo tx (2.12-2.14). Poss. S trait.

Current Clinical Status: (3.01) Incubator(temp. not provide). RA; no events last 24hrs. NG/cue-based feeds 24cal EBM @ 38cc q 3hrs.; Completed 0/5 attempts for 22% of total volume last 24 hrs.; ST consulting. Caffeine dc'd 2.23; Plan to follow x14 days PTD(3.09).

Medications: Updated. Please see medication tab.

Criteria Status: Special Care Level II Met
Criteria Product: LOC: Acute Pediatric
Criteria Subset: Nursery
Criteria Version: InterQual® 2021, Oct. 2021 Release

Review Summary:

Episode Day 2X, One:

SPECIAL CARE LEVEL II, One:

Partial responder: not clinically stable for discharge and requires continued stay, ≥ One:

Nutrition management or hydration, ≥ One:

Tube feeding ≥ 50%(0.50) of daily caloric requirement

NRS Barriers to Discharge: nutrition, thermoregulation, monitoring off Caffeine

Discharge Planning Update: Ensure mother participating in infant care as much as possible, esp. feeds; Confirmed she is being updated on regular basis; Confirm INN provider selected; Verify parents have needed supplies and adequate transportation.

UM Action Plan: Will discuss Caffeine monitoring/POC w/NRS MD during next clinical rounds. Assess for advancement of PO feeds per oral cues per ST recommendations. Requesting Incubator temp.; Prompt for wean to open crib once env. temp. <28 deg. C). Confirm discharge planning/teaching ongoing.

Anticipated Date of Discharge: 3.17.22

No Days Certified Past: 3.01.22

NRO: 3.04.22

UM Dept informed that any days past last covered day that do not meet medical necessity requirements may result in an adverse determination.

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Case Study # 2

Concurrent Clinical Note with InterQual
 Cilia: 24.6
 CWO: 1760
 Brief History: Former 32.0wk, BW 1330g, RDS requiring NCPAP, weaned to RA 2.13. Caffeine bolus/infusion Initiated 2.11; Septis w/ur; No absct; Hx of hypoglycemia, s/p CSDW x1/resolved. Enteral feeds initiated 2.10. TPN dx/cd 2.13. Photo tr (2.12-2.14). Pass. 5 trabs.
 Current Clinical Status: (3.21) Incubator(temp. not provide). RA: no events last 24hrs. NO/low-based feeds 24hrs BBW @ 38wca 3.21;
 Completed 0/3 attempts for 22% of total volume last 24 hrs.; QT consulting Caffeine dx/cd 2.22; Plan to follow x14 days PTD(3.09).
 Medications: Updated. Please see medication tab.
 Criteria Status: Special Care Level II Hct
 Criteria Product: LDC: Acute Pediatric
 Criteria Subject: Surgery
 Criteria Version: InterQual® 2021, Oct. 2021 Release
 Episode Summary:
 Episode Day 2X, One:
 @Risk: NRS, L4/NRS, L4; URS:
 Partial responder; not clinically stable for discharge and requires continued stay; 2 One:
 Nutrition management or respiration, 2 One:
 Tube feeding 2 50%(0.50) of daily caloric requirement
 NRS Barriers to Discharge: nutrition, thermoregulation, monitoring off Caffeine
 Discharge Planning Update: Ensure mother participating in infant care as much as possible, esp. feeds; Confirmed she is being updated on regular basis; Confirm DNR provider selected; verify parents have needed supplies and adequate transportation.
 UH Action Plan: Will discuss Caffeine monitoring/POC w/NRS HD during next clinical rounds; Assess for advancement of PO feeds per oral cues per ST recommendations; Re-requesting incubator temp.; Prompt for visit to open crib since env. temp. <32 deg. C; Confirm discharge planning/teaching ongoing.
 Anticipated Date of Discharge: 3.17.22
 No Days Certified Post: 3.01.22
 NRO: 3.04.22
 UH Dept informed that any days past last covered day that do not meet medical necessity requirements may result in an adverse determination.

- **Key Charting Items**
- Date of last caffeine dose
- How long the facility plans to monitor?
- Date of last event
- Severity of event (SpO2, HR)
- Duration of event (secs)
- What infant was doing during that time
- Intervention required

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Caffeine– What do the NRS Guidelines say?

Medication Therapy

- Caffeine is the only FDA approved treatment for AOP and is the preferred drug of choice for this indication particularly due to its long half-life, wide therapeutic index and lack of need to monitor drug level. Caffeine is generally considered very safe. Although caffeine toxicity can occur at higher doses, routine monitoring of caffeine levels has not been recommended. Theophylline is not recommended due to its side effects including the increased risk of seizures, tachycardia and feeding intolerance.
- It is recommended to discontinue caffeine once the infant is apnea free for 5-7 days off positive airway pressure (defined by high-flow nasal cannula or CPAP) or by 33-35 weeks' PMA, whichever comes sooner. (Eichenwald, 2016) (Please refer to clinical evidence section for ongoing clinical trial evaluating caffeine post-discharge. (ICAF clinical trial NCT03321734))
- Caffeine has shown to have both short-term and long-term pulmonary benefits, facilitating transition from invasive to non-invasive respiratory support, reducing intermittent hypoxia events and decreasing bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). (Schmidt, 2006, Dobson, 2016)
- When caffeine is used to treat apnea of prematurity, discontinuation needs to occur prior to discharge with an observation period of up to 7 days to demonstrate cardio-respiratory stability.
- An observation period of 5 days after discontinuing caffeine is a reasonable timeframe to demonstrate cardio-respiratory stability before safe hospital discharge.

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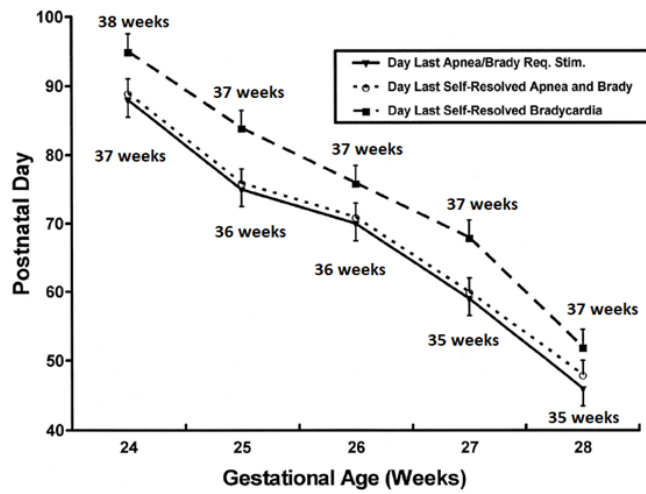
Question # 10 - Audience Response

When does apnea of prematurity typically resolve?

- A. 34 weeks PMA
- B. 36 weeks PMA
- C. 38 weeks PMA
- D. 40 weeks PMA
- E. 44 weeks PMA

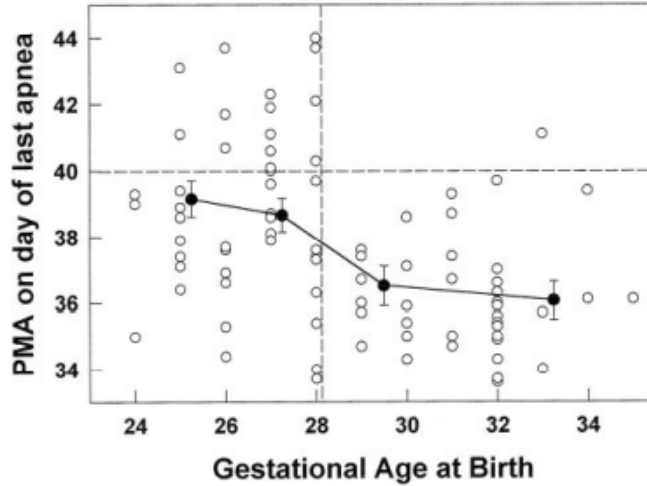
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Discharge – When does AOP resolve?



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Discharge – When does AOP resolve?



Darnall RA, Kattwinkle J. et al. Margin of safety for discharge after apnea in preterm infants. *Pediatrics*.1997;100(4):795-801



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Discharge – What is a safe interval for discharge?

CLINICAL REPORT Guidance for the Clinician in Rendering Pediatric Care

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Apnea of Prematurity
Eric C. Eichenwald, MD, FAAP, COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN

Abstract
Apnea of prematurity is one of the most common diagnoses in the NICU. Despite the frequency of apnea of prematurity, it is unknown whether recurrent apnea, bradycardia, and hypoxemia in preterm infants are harmful. Research into the development of respiratory control in immature animals and preterm infants has facilitated our understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of apnea of prematurity. However, the lack of consistent definitions, monitoring practices, and consensus about clinical significance leads to significant variation in practice. The purpose of this clinical report is to review the evidence base for the pathogenesis, epidemiology, and treatment of apnea of prematurity as well as discharge recommendations for preterm infants diagnosed with recurrent apneic events.

Background
Apnea of prematurity is one of the most common diagnoses in the NICU. Despite the frequency of apnea of prematurity, it is unknown whether recurrent apnea, bradycardia, and hypoxemia in preterm infants are harmful. Limited data suggest that the total number of days with apnea and resolution of episodes at more than 36 weeks' postmenstrual age (PMA) are associated with worse neurodevelopmental outcomes in preterm infants.^{1,2} However, it is difficult to separate any potential adverse effects of apnea from the degree of immaturity at birth, because the incidence of apnea is inversely proportional to gestational age.³ Research into the development of respiratory control in immature animals and preterm infants has facilitated our understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of apnea of prematurity (Table 1).⁴⁻⁶ However, the lack of consistent definitions, monitoring practices, and consensus about clinical significance leads to significant variation in practice.⁴⁻⁶ The purpose of this clinical report is to review the evidence base for the pathogenesis, epidemiology, and treatment of apnea of prematurity as well as discharge recommendations for preterm infants diagnosed with recurrent apneic events.

FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Keywords: Eichenwald EC, Watterberg KL, et al. COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN. Apnea of Prematurity. *Pediatrics* 2016; 137(1): e20153757. 10.1542/peds.2015-3757

- A clinically significant apnea event-free period before discharge of 5 to 7 days is commonly used
- A longer period may be suitable for infants born < 26 weeks' gestation.
- Specific event-free period may need to be individualized for some infants depending on GA at birth and nature and severity of recorded events

Eichenwald EC, Watterberg KL, et al. COMMITTEE ON FETUS AND NEWBORN. Apnea of Prematurity. *Pediatrics* January 2016; 137(1): e20153757. 10.1542/peds.2015-3757



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ABD Monitoring– What do the NRS guidelines say?

Apnea Countdown Prior to Discharge

Term

- An apnea/bradycardia countdown in a term infant should be based on etiology. Up to 3 days observation may be appropriate in the majority of such cases.

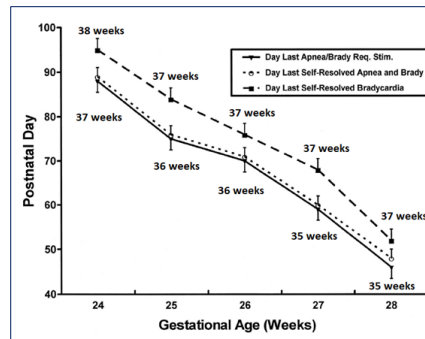
Preterm

- An apnea/bradycardia "countdown" of up to 5 days for a preterm infant is a reasonable period to demonstrate cardio-respiratory stability before a safe hospital discharge. (Coughlin, 2020)
- Up to 7 days is a reasonable period of monitoring after cessation of caffeine. (Coughlin, 2020)
- There may be select infants born at ≤ 26 weeks' gestation that warrant a longer observation period prior to discharge. (Eichenwald, 2016)
- The period of countdown following events should be based on the frequency and severity of the events and a reasonable countdown may be 3-7 days. (Chandrasekharan, 2018)
- In convalescing preterm infants, brief isolated self-limited bradycardia occurrences and feed-related events that cease with interruption of the feeding are not indications to delay discharge. (Eichenwald, 2016) Extended stay for a brief observation period may be warranted based on the degree and duration

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Home apnea/cardiorespiratory monitors

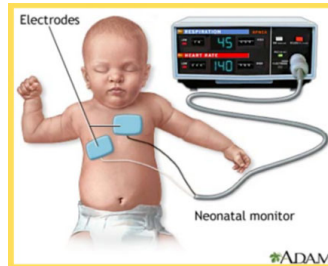
- Home monitoring of respiratory and heart rates with event recordings
- Typical settings: Alarms if apnea greater than 20 secs or heart rate less than 80bpm
- For infants with discharge before 38 weeks PMA, discharged home on caffeine or certain medical conditions
 - BPD, neurologic or metabolic disorders, pertussis, NAS on narcotics, GERD,



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Home apnea/cardiorespiratory monitors

- Typical settings: Alarms if apnea greater than 20 secs or heart rate less than 80bpm
- Interpretation by physician helps determine type of apnea and when to discontinue monitor
- Continued up until 43 weeks PMA or event free for 2 weeks, whichever comes later



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Home monitors – What do the NRS guidelines say?

Home Cardiorespiratory Monitoring

- Home cardiorespiratory monitoring might be considered for:
 - infants discharged home on caffeine.
 - Infants who continue to have self-resolved apneic events (Eichenwald, 2016)
 - Infants who have experienced an ALTE and who are technology-dependent (ventilator, tracheostomy with collar, gastrostomy, etc.), have unstable airways, have rare medical conditions affecting regulation of breathing, or have symptomatic chronic lung disease.
- Routine home cardiorespiratory monitoring for preterm infants with resolved apnea of prematurity is not recommended. (Eichenwald, 2016)
- An association between AOP and an increased risk for sudden infant death is not supported in the medical literature. (Eichenwald, 2016) Due to lack of medical evidence, home monitoring to prevent SIDS is not recommended.
- CPR, home monitoring equipment training, caregiver education, discharge teaching and rooming-in for parent(s)/caregivers(s) are recommended prior to discharge of infants with a home monitor.

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Case Study # 3

Concurrent Clinical Note with InterQual
 CGA: 36.0
 CW: 2170 (+17)

Brief History: Is an ex-32.3wkr/BW 1660g adm for prematurity, RDS, temp instability, thrombocytopenia (Plt 55K), hypoglycemia (BS 32, 33 > D10 bolus x 1 given) and feeding problems r/t prematurity. CPAP > RA 1/9. MOB Covid (+) at delivery. Infant Covid (-) x 2.
 Current Clinical Status: (1/31) OC, RA, FEBM/Neosure 24kcal po ad lib; last NG feed 1/26. Reported A/B event < 20 sec w/ HR 69 on 1/27 which required stim.

Medications: Updated to reflect all medication information provided by facility, not all details provided. Please see medication tab.

Criteria Status: Special Care Level II Met
 Criteria Product: LOC: Acute Pediatric
 Criteria Subset: Nursery
 Criteria Version: InterQual® 2021, Oct. 2021 Release

Review Summary:

Episode Day 2X, One:
 SPECIAL CARE LEVEL II, One:
 Partial responder, not clinically stable for discharge and requires continued stay, ≥ One:
 Apnea or bradycardia (excludes feeding related events), ≥ One:
 Clinically significant event within the past 5 days and, ≥ One:
 Apnea < 20s and, ≥ One:
 Heart rate of < 80/min
 O2 sat < 85%(0.85) or central cyanosis

NRS Barriers to Discharge: Event watch, DC planning
 Discharge Planning Update: Ensure clinical care is delivered in a timely manner as per NRS guidelines and InterQual criteria.
 UM Action Plan: Prompt DC upon completion of 5-day event watch; ensure parent updated regularly by medical staff, and that are they involved w/infant daily care.

Anticipated Date of Discharge: 2/1/22
 No Days Certified Past: 1/31/22
 NRD: 2/3/22
 UM Dept. informed that any days past last covered day that do not meet medical necessity requirements may result in

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- **Key Charting Items**
- Date of last event
- Severity of event (SpO2, HR)
- Duration of event (secs)
- What infant was doing during that time
- Intervention required
- How long the facility plans to monitor?

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When to escalate to NRS Medical Director?

Medical Director Escalation

Medical Director escalation is needed for the following:

- When the infant has a countdown of greater than 7 days after discontinuation of caffeine.
- When a preterm infant has a countdown of greater than 5 days for apnea/brady/desaturation events.
- When a term infant has a length of stay more than 3 days following resolution of apnea.
- When the infant has self-limited bradycardia or desaturation episodes that prolong length of stay.
- When the infant has feeding related events and resolution with interruption of feedings that is extending hospital stay.
- When hospital stay is prolonged for an asymptomatic patient due to a pneumocardiogram study that is interpreted as abnormal.

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Take Home Pointers...

- More details about the ABD events are better 😊
 - Date of last event, Severity of event (SpO₂, HR), Duration of event (secs), What infant was doing during that time, Intervention required, How long the facility plans to monitor?
- Apnea in a term infant is pathologic
 - length of hospitalization should be determined by evaluation and management
- Apnea of prematurity typically resolves by 37 weeks in infant greater than 28 weeks at birth and term equivalent or longer in infants born less than 28 weeks

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Take Home Pointers...

- Caffeine takes approx. 7 days to become sub-therapeutic
- Pneumocardiograms should not prolong hospital stay
- Duration of monitoring for ABD events prior to discharge depends on gestational age at birth, frequency and severity of events
 - Typical 5-7 day monitoring period
 - Infant born less than 26 weeks may warrant a longer period

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Any Questions?



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