

THERMAL PROTECTION

The thermal protection module is designed to complement pre-service in-service education of nursing personnel involved in care of newborns.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this module, participants will be able to:

- **Enlist the factors which contribute to heat loss and know, how they can be prevented**
- **Teach the mother how to keep her baby warm after birth and at home**
- **Plan appropriate nursing interventions for a baby experiencing hypothermia**
- **Explain what is hyperthermia and how to prevent it**

MODULE CONTENTS

The module includes following elements:

- **Text material:** Easy to read format for quick reproduction and essential reference material for the participants. Key messages are highlighted in the boxes.
- **Case studies:** Simple cases which involve nursing interventions related to thermoregulation.
- **Oral drill:** You will learn assessment of temperature in normal and hypothermic baby and steps to be undertaken as a nurse caring for the baby to maintain temperature.
- **Role-play:** Observe steps to keep baby warm in postnatal ward. Participants will also be provided with an opportunity to do role play.
- **Self-evaluation:** At the end of text, self evaluation based on what has been learnt is included. If you need to recapitulate, feel free to refer to text material.

1. IMPORTANCE OF TEMPERATURE REGULATION

Warmth is one of the basic needs of a newborn baby. It is critical for the baby's survival and wellbeing. Unlike adults, newborn babies are often not able to keep themselves warm especially if the environmental temperature is low. This results in low body temperature or hypothermia.

Even normal, well babies need care to avoid becoming too cold or too hot. A sick or preterm newborn infant is more likely to die if she is hypothermic

2. HANDICAPS OF NEWBORN IN TEMPERATURE REGULATION

A newborn is more prone to develop hypothermia because of a large surface area per unit of body weight. In addition, Low Birth Weight (LBW) babies have decreased thermal insulation due to less subcutaneous fat and decreased heat production due to lack of energy brown fat.

Brown fat is the site of heat production. It is localized around the adrenal glands, kidneys, nape of neck, interscapular and axillary region. Metabolism of brown fat results in heat production. Blood flowing through the brown fat becomes warm and through circulation transfers heat to other parts of the body. This mechanism of heat production is called as '*non shivering thermogenesis*'. LBW babies lack this effective mechanism of heat generation.

Why are newborn prone to develop hypothermia?

- *Larger surface area*
- *Decreased thermal insulation due to lack of subcutaneous fat*
- *Less amount of brown fat*

3. CONSEQUENCES OF HYPOTHERMIA

The body cannot function well when it is cold. Being too cold means that the baby has to use a lot of energy to keep himself warm. A cold baby:

- is less active
- does not breastfeed well
- has a weak cry
- has respiratory distress

A small preterm baby who is cold (hypothermic) is also at increased risk of becoming hypoglycemic. If the baby continues to be cold, these symptoms become more severe and eventually the baby might die.

4. MECHANISM OF HEAT LOSS AND HEAT GAIN

It is very easy for a baby to get cold especially at the time of delivery when the baby is wet with amniotic fluid. The temperature inside the mother's womb is 38°C; once the baby is born it is in a much colder environment and hence starts to lose heat immediately.

Baby's temperature is influenced by the surrounding environment. Baby gains heat in a warm environment and loses heat in a cold environment. Baby can lose warmth when baby is wet (*by evaporation*), lying on cold surface (*by conduction*), is exposed to draught of cold air (*by convection*) or is surrounded by cold surfaces like walls (*by radiation*). Similarly baby can gain heat when lying on warm surface (*by conduction*), is surrounded by warm circulating air as in an incubator (*by convection*) or lying under a warm heat source of radiant warmer (*by radiation*).

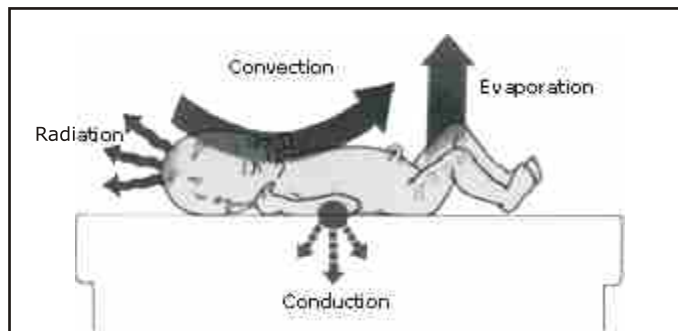


Figure 1: Mechanisms of heat loss

Prevention of heat loss

Continue initial skin-to-skin care for at least one hour after birth whenever possible
Avoid exposure of cold air and contact with wet or cold surfaces.

Maintain normal temperature when skin-to-skin care is not being used

Clothe and wrap in a clean, dry blanket, and cover the head.

The steps of prevention of heat loss are summarized in Figure 2.

Evaporation: Involves the loss of heat when a liquid is converted to a vapour.

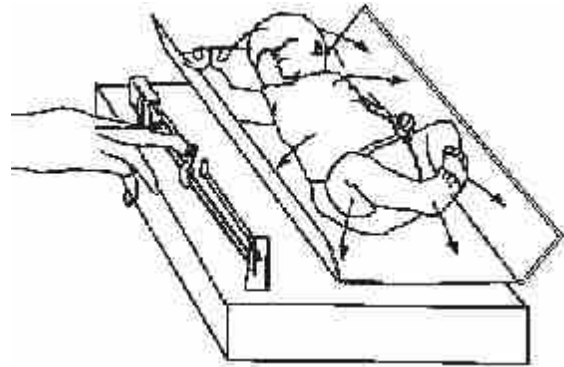


DRYING AT BIRTH

Nursing implication

- Keep infant dry
- Remove wet nappies
- Minimize exposure during baths

Conduction: Involves the loss of body heat to cooler objects which come in direct contact with baby's skin.

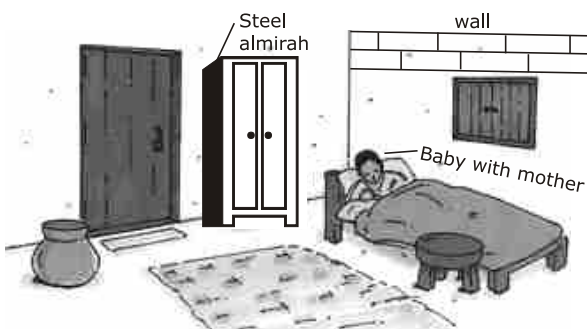


WEIGHING AT BIRTH

Nursing implication

- Put the baby on prewarmed sheet
- Cover weighing scales and X-ray cassettes with warm towel or blanket

Radiation: Involves loss of infant's body heat to cooler solid objects that are not directly in contact with him.

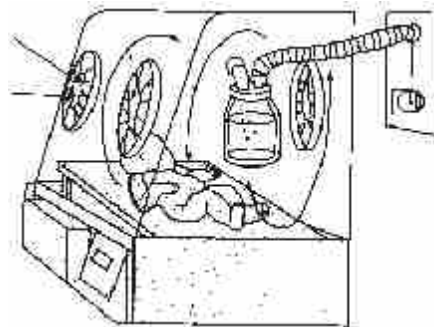


BABY INSIDE THE ROOM

Nursing implication

- Keep baby cot away from cold outside walls, almirah
- Maintain room temperature at 25° C
- Cover the baby if stable

Convection: Involves the flow of heat from the body surface to cooler surrounding air or to air circulating over body surface.



INCUBATOR WITH HUMIDIFICATION

Nursing implication in newborn care unit

- Avoid air current
- Manage babies inside incubator, if possible
- Organize work to minimize opening portholes
- Provide warm humidified oxygen

Figure 2: Prevention of heat loss in newborn



DEMONSTRATION

Place a naked wet doll on the table. Discuss the four ways a baby can lose heat and demonstrate how to prevent them.

5. TEMPERATURE RECORDING

Normal temperature in a newborn is 36.5°C-37.5°C.

Accurate temperature recording is needed if a baby is:

- Preterm/low birth weight or sick
- Admitted to hospital for any reason
- Suspected of being either hypothermic or hyperthermic (too hot)
- Being re-warmed during the management of hypothermia
- Being cooled down during the management of hyperthermia

A temperature taken in the axilla (under the arm in the arm pit) is one of the safest methods of taking a baby's temperature. Using a thermometer to measure temperature is more exact than feeling the skin to estimate if a baby is too hot or too cold.

5.1 Axillary temperature

Axillary temperature is as good as rectal temperature but much safer (less risk of injury or infection). It is recorded by placing the bulb of thermometer against the roof of dry axilla free from moisture. Baby's arm is held close to the body to keep thermometer in place. The temperature is read after three minutes.

The steps of axillary temperature recording are summarized in the box below. When using an electronic thermometer temperature is read when beep is sounded.

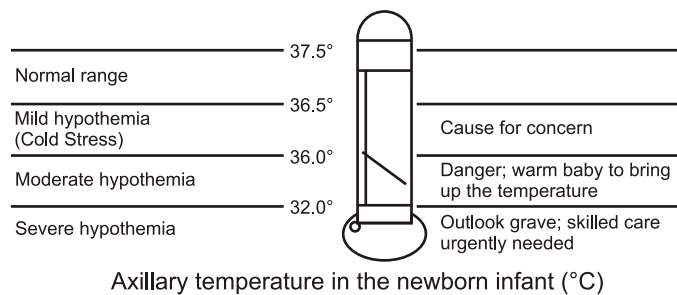


Figure 3: Axillary temperature in newborns

Recording the axillary temperature

Steps:

1. Wash your hands before taking a baby's temperature
2. Keep the baby warm throughout the procedure. He/she does not need to be in a special position for the temperature to be taken
3. Make sure that the thermometer is clean.
4. Shake mercury thermometer, so that it reads less than 35°C.
5. Place the silver/red/bulb end of the thermometer under the baby's arm in the middle of the armpit after cleaning and drying.
6. Gently hold the baby's arm against the body.
7. Keep the thermometer in place for 3 minutes.
8. Remove the thermometer and read the temperature. DO NOT add 0.5°C or 1°C to this.
9. Keep thermometer in a sterile dry container after cleaning from bulb to tip with spirit
10. Record the temperature in the baby's case notes.



DEMONSTRATION

The facilitator will conduct a demonstration on 'Recording the axillary temperature with a thermometer'.

5.2 Rectal temperature

Do not use this method for routine monitoring. However, it can be used as a guide for core temperature in cold (hypothermic) sick neonates. It is recorded by inserting the greased bulb of the special thermometer backwards and upwards to a depth of 3 cm in a term baby (2 cm in a preterm baby). Keep thermometer in place at least for 2 minutes.

Rectal temperature is not recorded as a routine procedure in neonates; record rectal temperature only for a sick hypothermic newborn

The difference in rectal and axillary temperatures is not significant.

5.3 Skin temperature

Skin temperature is recorded by a thermister. The probe of the thermister is attached to the skin over upper abdomen. The thermister senses the skin temperature and displays it on the panel.

5.4 Using digital thermometer

This is used using same steps as mercury thermometer except that

- (i) remember to ON the thermometer prior to placing the same in axilla
- (ii) read the temperature when the bleep is sounded.

6. ASSESSMENT OF TEMPERATURE BY TOUCH

Baby's temperature can be assessed with reasonable precision by touching his/her abdomen, hands, and feet with the dorsum of your hand. In newborns, abdominal temperature is representative of the core temperature.

When feet are cold and abdomen is warm, it indicates that the baby is in cold stress. In hypothermia, both feet and abdomen are cold to touch.

In normothermic baby (baby with normal temperature), both abdomen and feet are warm to touch

7. WARM CHAIN

The "warm chain" is a set of interlinked procedures carried out at birth and later which will minimize the likelihood of hypothermia in all newborns. Baby must be kept warm at the place of birth (home or hospital) and during transportation from home to hospital or within the hospital. Satisfactory control of baby's temperature demands both prevention of heat loss and providing extra heat using an appropriate source.

7.1 Common situations where cold stress can occur

- i. At birth
- ii. During and after giving bath
- iii. During changing of nappy/clothes
- iv. Malfunctioning heat source or removing the baby from heat source
- v. While transporting a sick baby

7.2 Steps to prevent heat loss in labor room

- i. Keep delivery room warm (25°C)
- ii. Newborn care corner temperature to be maintained at 28°C-30°C
- iii. Drying immediately. Dry with one towel. Remove the wet towel and cover with another pre-warmed towel
- iv. Skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby
- v. Ensure baby is kept on mother's chest or abdomen, well covered with cloth and head covered with cap

7.3 Steps to prevent heat loss in postnatal ward

- i. Promote breast feeding
- ii. Appropriate clothing, cover head and extremities
- iii. Keep mother and baby together
- iv. Keep the room warm 25°C-28°C
- v. Postpone bathing for next day at home

Use a wall-mounted room thermometer to ensure that room temperature is maintained at 25°C

7.4 How to keep baby warm?*

- i. Use dry, warm towel to hold the baby at birth. Remove wet towel after cleaning
- ii. Adequate and appropriate clothing
- iii. Skin-to-skin contact or next to mother (Rooming-in)
- iv. Radiant warmer in nursery
- v. Keep the room temperature of baby care area >25°C.

7.5 How to keep room warm?

- i. Avoid setting air conditioner temperature less than 25° C. If baby is low birth weight or preterm air conditioner can be avoided
- ii. Don't use ceiling fan especially at high speed
- iii. Keep windows and doors closed in winter
- iv. Warm the room by convector/heater (ensure these devices are away from baby)

****Using a 200 watt bulb may not be sufficient to keep the baby warm. There is also a risk of breakage of bulb***

नवजात शिशुओं में ठंडापन (ह्याइपोथरमिया)

ठंडापन क्या है?

जब शिशु के शरीर का तापमान 36.5°C से कम हो जाता है, तो ऐसी अवस्था को ठंडापन कहते हैं।

आप तीन मिनट के लिए बाल के ऊपरी हिस्से में थर्मामीटर लगाकर शिशु का तापमान माप सकते हैं।

ठंडापन क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

1. कम वजन वाले शिशु में ठंडापन मौत का कारण हो सकता है।
2. ठंडापन का बीमार शिशु में रोगों का हमला जल्दी होता है।
3. ठंडापन एक कम वजन वाले बच्चे के शारीरिक विकास को कम करता है।

ठंडापन की गंभीरता

| | |
|---|------|
| सामान्य श्रेणी (36.5°C to 37.5°C) | 37.5 |
| कुछ ठंडापन (36.0°C to 36.4°C) | 36.5 |
| ज्यादा ठंडापन (32.0°C to 35.9°C) | 36.0 |
| गंभीर ठंडापन ($<32.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) | 32.0 |

ठंडापन क्यों होता है?

1. जब प्रसूति कक्ष बहुत ठंडा होता है।
2. शिशु को जन्म के बाद तुरंत सुलाया नहीं जाता है।
3. शिशु को माँ से दूर रखा जाता है।
4. शिशु को पर्याप्त कपड़े नहीं पहनाए गए हैं।
5. नहलाने के दौरान पानी या कमरा उचित गर्म न हो।

कौन से बच्चों में ठंडापन होने की संभावना होती है?

1. कम वजन वाले शिशु
2. बीमार शिशु
3. जन्म के तुरंत बाद

नवजात शिशु को उचित गर्मी कैसे दें

- जन्म के समय उष्मा की हानि की रोकथाम
 - प्रसूति कक्ष का तापमान कम से कम 25°C रखें।
 - शिशु को तत्काल सुलाएं, एक गरम तौलिए में लपेटें।
 - शिशु को छाती के सम्पर्क में रखें; स्तनपान प्रारम्भ करें।

शिशु को नहलाना

- अगले दिन तक के लिए स्थगित करें।
- बीमार शिशु को न नहलाएं।
- जब तक कम वजन वाले बच्चों में नाल न गिर जाए, नहीं नहलायें।
- शिशु को एक गरम कमरे में गरम पानी से नहलाएं। तत्काल सुला लें और सूखे गरम तौलिए में लपेट लें। शिशु के सिर को ढक लें। माँ के पास लिटा दें।

नवजात शिशु को कई ढीले कपड़े पहनाएं तथा तापमान पर नज़र रखें

- माँ और नवजात शिशु को एक साथ गरम कमरे में रखें

कम वजन वाले शिशु को घर पर किस तरह गर्म रख सकते हैं



कमरे को गरम रखें



शिशु को स्तनपान करावें

कैगारू माता देखभाल प्रदान करें

सुविधा में एक बीमार/कम जन्म-भार वाले शिशु को कैसे गरम रखते हैं

1. शिशु को तापक (warmer) के नीचे अथवा इन्क्यूबेटर में रखें



2. शिशु को कैगारू माता देखभाल दें



3. यदि तापक/इन्क्यूबेटर उपलब्ध नहीं है तो नर्सरी को गरम रखें

| जन्म भार (कि.ग्रा.) | नर्सरी तापमान |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.0-1.5 | $30-33^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| 1.5-2.0 | $28-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ |
| 2.0-2.5 | $26-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ |

ठंडापन से ग्रस्त शिशु को दुबारा कैसे गरम करें

- गरम कमरा सुनिश्चित करें।
- गीले-उपड़े कपड़े हटा दें, और गरम कपड़े पहना दें।
- तत्काल छाती-से छाती विपकाकर शिशु को गरम करें और/अथवा रेडियंट हीटर अथवा इन्क्यूबेटर का प्रयोग करें।
- स्तनपान जारी रखें।
- समय-समय पर तापमान की जाँच करते रहें।
- यदि ठंडापन बना रहता है तो संक्रमण रोग की संभावना के लिये देखें।

Hypothermia in Newborns

What is hypothermia?

Hypothermia is defined when baby's body temperature falls below 36.5°C

You can measure temperature of a baby by keeping thermometer in roof of axilla for three minutes

Why it is important ?

1. Hypothermia decreases chances of survival of a low birth weight baby
2. Hypothermia aggravates the illness severity in a sick baby
3. Hypothermia decreases growth of a low birth weight baby

Severity of hypothermia

| |
|---|
| Normal range (36.5°C to 37.5°C) |
| Cold stress (36.0°C to 36.4°C) |
| Moderate hypothermia (32.0°C to 35.9°C) |
| Severe hypothermia (<32.0°C) |



Why does it occur?

1. When delivery room is too cold
2. Baby is not dried immediately after birth
3. Baby is kept away from mother
4. Baby has inadequate clothing
5. Exposure during bathing

Which babies are at highest risk?

1. Low birth weight babies
2. Sick babies
3. Babies immediately after birth

Prevent heat loss: The warm chain

Prevent heat loss at birth

- ◆ Keep delivery room temperature at least 25°C
- ◆ Dry immediately, wrap in a warm towel
- ◆ Provide skin-to-skin contact, initiate breastfeeding

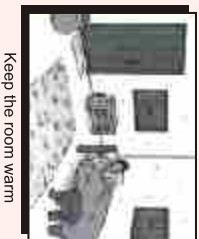
Bathing the infant

- ◆ Postpone till next day
- ◆ Do not bathe a sick baby
- ◆ Avoid till cord falls in LBW baby
- ◆ Bathe using warm water in a warm room. Dry immediately. Wrap in dry warm towel, cover head. Place near mother.

Dress newborns with several layers of loose clothing and monitor temperature

Keep mother and newborn together in a warm room

How to keep a LBW baby warm at home



Keep the room warm



Keep baby wrapped in warm clothes



Keep baby on exclusive breast feeding



Provide Kangaroo Mother Care

How to keep a sick/LBW baby warm in facility

1. Keep baby under radiant warmer or inside an incubator



2. Provide Kangaroo Mother Care



3. If radiant warmer/incubator not available keep the nursery warm

| Birth weight (kg) | Ideal nursery temperature |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.0-1.5 | 30-33°C |
| 1.5-2.0 | 28-30°C |
| 2.0-2.5 | 26-28°C |

How to rewarm a hypothermic baby

- ➔ Ensure a warm room
- ➔ Remove wet cold clothes, replace with warm clothes
- ➔ Rewarm quickly by skin-to-skin contact and/or a heating device such as radiant heater or incubator
- ➔ Continue breast-feeding
- ➔ Monitor temperature at regular intervals
- ➔ Assess for infection if hypothermia persists

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Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi



ORAL DRILL

There will be an oral drill by the facilitator on '**ASSESSMENT OF TEMPERATURE AND MANAGEMENT OF HYPOTHERMIA**'.

The assessment, clinical features and management of hypothermia are summarized in the following table:

| Category | Temp. range | Feel by touch | Clinical features | Action |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Normal | 36.5 to 37.5°C | Warm abdomen Warm extremities | Normal baby | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cover adequately with cloth o Keep the baby next to mother o Encourage breast feeding |
| Mild hypothermia (Cold stress) | 36 to 36.4°C | Warm abdomen Cold extremities | Extremities bluish and cold Lethargy Poor weight gain if chronic cold stress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skin-to-skin contact o Cover adequately o Ensure room is warm o Encourage breast feeding |
| Moderate hypothermia | 32 to 35.9°C | Cold abdomen Cold extremities | Poor sucking Lethargy Weak cry Fast breathing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cover mother and baby together using pre-warmed clothes o Provide warmth o Vitamin K (if not given earlier) o Reassess every 15 minutes; if temperature doesn't improve, provide additional heat by keeping baby under a radiant warmer or inside incubator o Encourage breast feeding |
| Severe hypothermia | Less than 32°C | Cold abdomen Cold extremities | Lethargic Poor perfusion/mottling Fast or slow breathing Slow heart rate Hardening of skin with redness and edema Bleeding Low blood sugar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rapid re-warming till baby is 34°C and then slow re-warming o Give oxygen to maintain SpO₂ o IV fluids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dextrose (warm and monitor blood sugar) o Inj-vitamin K o Reassess every 15 minutes; if temperature doesn't improve, provide additional heat o Monitor vitals every 30 min. |

Inform the doctor immediately if temperature is less than 36°C

Remove the wet cloth, place the baby under heat source, encourage breastfeeding. Start oxygen administration if the baby has respiratory distress or cyanosis.

- **Avoid use of hot water bottle for (re) warming the baby as this can cause skin burns**
- **Use warm clothes to cover the baby for providing extra warmth; in places where electricity is not available use a tawa to warm the clothes**
- **During transportation to another hospital, the baby is kept warm by keeping the baby in direct skin-to-skin contact with the mother or another relative**



SELF EVALUATION

1. Newborn baby is prone to develop hypothermia due to

2. Enumerate four mechanisms of heat loss in neonates:
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
3. Steps of "Warm chain" in hospital include following:

| In labor room | In postnatal ward |
|---------------|-------------------|
| i. _____ | i. _____ |
| ii. _____ | ii. _____ |
| iii. _____ | iii. _____ |
| iv. _____ | iv. _____ |
| v. _____ | v. _____ |
4. Routine temperature should be recorded by _____ route.
5. Normal axillary temperature range is _____ to _____
6. How can you assess baby's temperature by touch?

7. A baby with cold stress will have warm abdomen and _____ soles/palms.

***You will be given individual feedback after you have evaluated yourself.**



GROUP DISCUSSION - CASE STUDY

You are posted in postnatal ward. A recently delivered mother complains that her baby is lethargic. On examination you find a 6 hr old, 2.2 kg baby lying away from mother. The baby has not been dressed in any clothes and only wrapped in a hospital cotton sheet. Heart rate is 140/minute, RR 56/minute. Extremities are cold to touch and bluish while abdomen is warm to touch. You record axillary temperature which is 36.1°C. The room temperature is 22°C.

Q1. What is the problem with this baby?

Q2. What are the adverse effects of this condition?

Q.3 What led to this situation in the baby?

Q.4 What will you do to rectify those conditions?

Q.5 What type of thermometers are available in your hospital? Do they measure temperature below 35.5°C?



ROLE PLAY

You will observe the role play being conducted by two facilitators on 'How to keep baby warm in postnatal ward'. Write your comments for discussion at the end of the role play.

Objective: To demonstrate how to keep a baby warm in postnatal ward.

Checklist for the demonstration role play

A (Ask)

L (Listen)

P (Praise)

A (Advise)

C (Check understanding)

Checklist for role play by the participants

A (Ask)

L (Listen)

P (Praise)

A (Advise)

C (Check understanding)

8. KEEPING RADIANT WARMER OR INCUBATOR READY TO RECEIVE A BABY

Prepare a bed at least 20-30 minutes before the baby arrives in the nursery to ensure the baby is received in warm, comfortable environment.

Keeping radiant warmer ready*

1. Clean the radiant warmer properly before use.
2. Switch on the mains.
3. Put the baby sheet on the bed. Arrange all the necessary items near the bed.
4. Put the radiant warmer on the manual mode with 100% heater output for atleast 20 minutes so that the temperature of all items likely to come in contact with baby are warm.
5. Cover the head and feet of the baby, while under radiant warmer.
6. Ensure skin probe is applied to baby in servo with desired setting 36.5°C.

Keeping incubator ready*

1. Clean the incubator properly before use.
2. Switch on the mains.
3. Put the baby sheet on the bed. Arrange all the necessary items near the bed.
4. Put the incubator ON in air mode with 33 C for at least 30 minutes before
6. Shift to skin servo mode with temperature set at 36.5°C.
7. Manage via portholes and combine various activities.

* For more details refer to module on equipments

9. HYPERTHERMIA/HIGH TEMPERATURE

9.1 What is a high temperature?

High temperature, fever or hyperthermia, occurs when the body temperature rises above 37.5°C. It is not as common as hypothermia, but it is equally dangerous. The causes of high temperature may be:

- The room is too hot
- The baby has too many layers of clothes
- The baby has an infection.
- Baby has dehydration due to low intake of breastmilk

9.2 How to prevent high temperature?

- Keep the baby away from sources of heat (warmer, heater, etc.), direct sunlight
- If the baby feels hot, remove a layer of clothing
- If the baby has been under a radiant warmer
 - Measure the baby's body temperature every hour until it is in normal range.
 - Measure the temperature under the radiant warmer every hour and adjust the temperature setting accordingly. If there is no obvious reason to suspect overheating, inform Doctor who will evaluate.
 - Ensure the temperature probe is properly secured .

9.3 Steps to be undertaken if the elevated body temperature is due to overheating.

The steps are summarized below:

Treatment of hyperthermia due to overheating

1. Place the baby in a normal temperature environment (25°C to 28°C), away from any source of heat.
2. Undress the baby partially or fully, if necessary.
3. Give frequent breastfeeds.
4. Measure the baby's axillary temperature every hour until it is in the normal range.
5. If the body temperature is very high (>39°C), sponge the baby with tap water. Examine the infant for infection.

Both hypothermia and hyperthermia can be signs of sepsis. If a baby has been in a stable temperature environment with fairly constant temperature readings, but begins to have fluctuating temperature readings (low, high or both) inform the Doctor for evaluation.

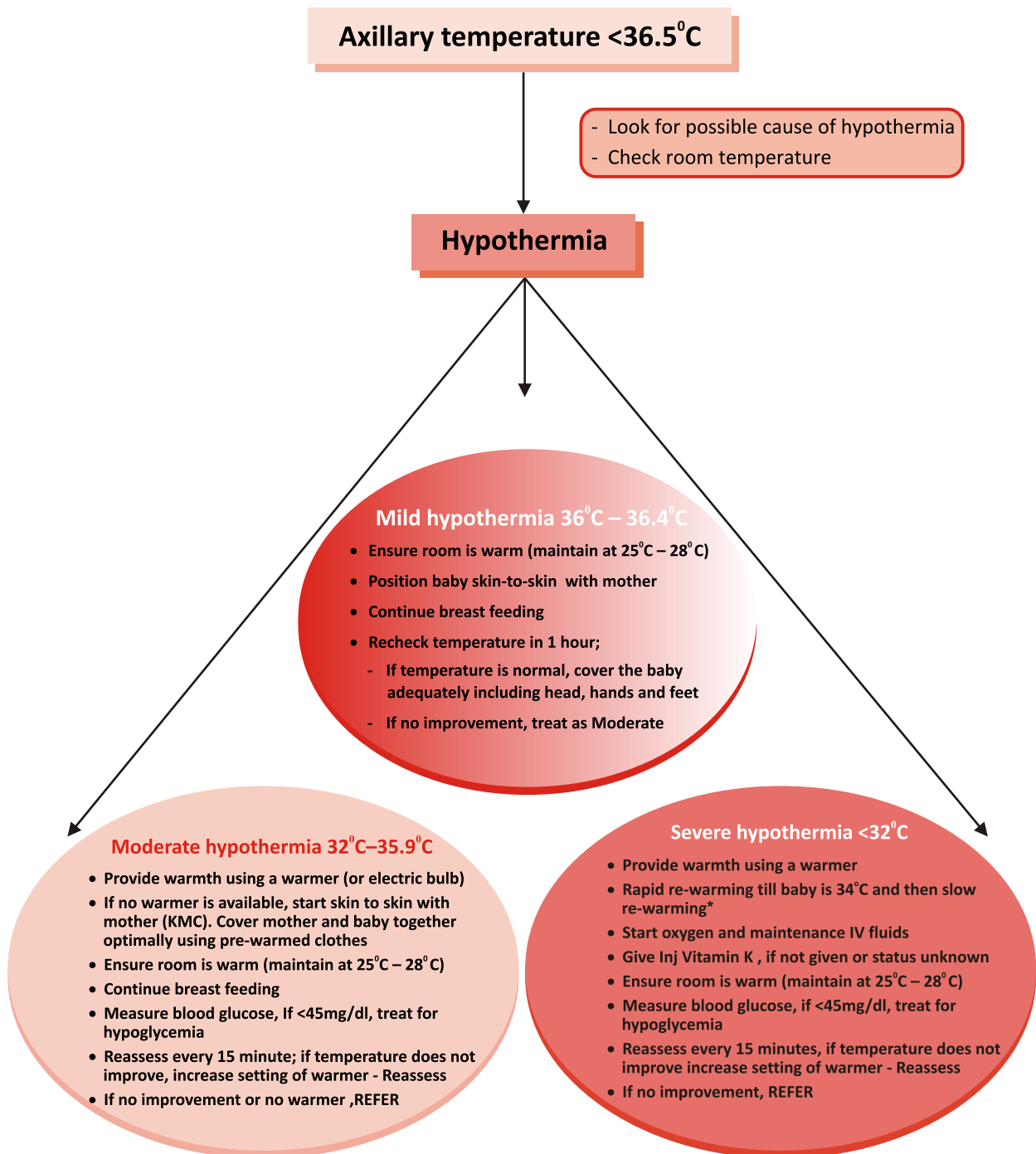
A temperature below 35.5°C is a danger sign. A temperature above 37.5°C not due to excess warming is a danger sign.

Avoid ice cold water or ice for sponging. Use tap water

Recommended reading

- Thermal Protection of the Newborn: A Practical Guide WHO WHO/RHT/MSM/97.2
- Teaching Aids NNF, Publication of National Neonatology Forum of India 2005, 3rd Ed., Deorari AK (Ed)

Hypothermia



***Hypothermia can be a sign of infection**

* Initially use high setting of the warmer and if the baby's temperature has been increasing at least 0.5°C per hour over the last 3 hours, rewarming is successful, shift to lower setting of warmer and continue measuring the baby's temperature every 2 hours

Hyperthermia

Axillary temperature $>37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$

Hyperthermia

- Look for possible cause
- Check room temperature (maintain at $25-28^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Look for signs of infection
- Look for signs of dehydration*

- Keep baby away from source of heat (warmer, heater, sunlight)
- Remove extra clothes
- Decrease environmental temperature (if needed)
- Recheck baby's temperature every 1 hour till normal
- If $>39^{\circ}\text{C}$, sponge the baby with luke warm water
- Treat underlying cause
- Ensure adequate feeding or fluids
- Treat dehydration, if present*
- Measure blood glucose; if $<45\text{mg}$, treat for hypoglycemia
- **Do not give antipyretic**

*** Signs of dehydration in a newborn**

- Sunken eyes, or
- Depressed fontanelle, or
- Loss of skin elasticity, or
- Dry tongue and mucous membrane

***Hyperthermia can be a sign of infection**