



PREMATUREITY

def born before 37wks gestation

initially

- cared for on SCBU or neonatal ICU
 - incubators
 - warm humidified air
 - thin skin therefore not good for heat and fluid loss
- NG tube
 - strong sucking reflex not formed til 35wks
- inc risk of infection
 - from mother or hospital
- very sick
 - growth retardation or asphyxia
 - risk of necrotising enterocolitis
 - IV parenteral nutrition

Complications General

- Temp control**
 - inc SA to volume ratio
 - loss
 - immature skin
 - reduced fat
- Infection**
 - inc risk of sepsis esp Group B strep
 - pneumonia
 - infected peripheral lines
- Blood**
 - anaemia of prematurity
 - neonatal jaundice
- Nutrition**
 - NG tube
 - parenteral
- Metabolic**
 - hypoglycaemia common
 - ensure >2.6
 - hypocalcaemia
 - electrolyte imbalance
 - osteopaenia of prematurity
 - risk of fracture

Brain

- intraventricular haemorrhage**
 - 40% of v low weight
 - develops in floor of lat ventricle -> ventricle
 - 25% -> white matter around ventricle via venous infarction
 - diag by cerebral USS
 - assymptomatic
- post haemorrhagic hydrocephalus**
 - 15%
 - needs ventrico-peritoneal shunt
- inc risk of cerebral palsy**
- periventricular leucomalacia**
 - ischaemic damage to white mater around ventricle
 - cerebral palsy in survivors
 - inc risk if neonatal infection, severe hypotension, MP that share placenta

Eyes

- retinopathy of prematurity**
 - 50% of v low birthweight <1.5kg
 - O2 toxicity
 - proliferation in ischaemic retina
- req laser treatment to prevent retinal detachment and blindness** (1%)

Resp

- resp distress syndrome**
 - 34-36wks
 - alveolar type 2 cells
 - reduce surface tension in aveoli
 - surfactant def
 - O2 dependant
 - may develop broncho-pulmonary dysplasia
 - Mx
 - give oxygen
 - mech ventilation
 - exogenous surfactant
 - alveolar collapse
 - ground glass on CXR
- apnoea and bradycardia**
- pneumothorax**
- chronic lung disease**

Cardio

- hypotension**
- PDA**

GI

- necrotising enterocolitis**
 - life threatening inflamm of bowel wall
 - due to infection and ischaemia
 - can lead to bowel perforation, strictures, short bowel syndrome
 - ando distension, bile stained vomit, bloody diarrhoea
 - S&S
 - Mx
 - stop milk feeds, ABs, fluids
- GORD**
- ing hernia**
 - high risk of strangulation