

PREMATURITY

Complications

Brain

40% of v low weight develops in floor of lat ventricle -> ventricle
 25% -> white matter around ventricle via venous infarction
 diag by cerebral USS asymptomatic

15%
 needs ventrico-peritoneal shunt

inc risk of cerebral palsy

ischaemic damage to white mater around ventricle
 cerebral palsy in survivors

periventricular leucomalacia

inc risk if neonatal infection, severe hypotension, MP that share placenta

Eyes

50% of v low birthweight <1.5kg
 O2 toxicity proliferation in ischaemic retina

retinopathy of prematurity

1%
 req laser treatment to prevent retinal detachment and blindness

Resp

34-36wks alveolar type 2 cells
 reduce surface tension in aveoli

surfactant def

resp distress syndrome

apnoea and bradycardia

pneumothorax

chronic lung disease

ground glass on CXR

alveolar collapse

exogenous surfactant

Mx

mech ventilation

give oxygen

may develop broncho-pulmonary dysplasia

O2 dependant

Cardio

hypotension

PDA

GI

life threatening inflamm of bowel wall
 due to infection and ischaemia

necrotising enterocolitis

can lead to bowel perforation, strictures, short bowel syndrome
 ando distension, bile stained vomit, bloody diarrhoea S&S

stop milk feeds, ABs, fluids Mx

GORD

high risk of strangulation

ing hernia

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