

THE NEONATE--KEY

Define or explain the following:

1. Neonate:
A newborn--"neo" means new and "natal" means birth.
2. Umbilical cord:
The cord that connects the baby to the mother. It supplies food and oxygen to the baby.
3. Head-to-body proportion:
The newborn's head is large. It is about 1/4 the size of the body.
4. Fontanelles:
Open spaces in the baby's head that allow the skull to move together during birth and allow for brain growth after birth.
5. Senses and features:
 - a. nose/smell: **Short, flat nose helps by not getting in the way when the baby eats. Smell is the best developed sense.**
 - b. eyes/sight: **Eyes are nearly adult size and a gray-blue color. Eyelids are swollen or puffy to protect their sensitive eyes. The baby's eyesight and eye color develop over the next several months. Their eyes often appear crossed due to the lack of muscle development and control and lack of a bridge on their nose. They see between 20/700 and 20/400. By three months, they see about 20/70, and by six months, they see about 20/30 to 20/20. (See *Parents Magazine*, April 1994.)**
 - c. ears/hearing: **Ears are close to the head, and one may be higher than the other. The sense of hearing is well developed. Neonates like high-pitched sounds or voices.**
 - d. mouth/taste: **The sense of taste is well developed. They are born with a natural sweet tooth. Newborns should be given plain water, not sugar water. Newborns prefer breast milk over any other liquid.**
 - e. skin/touch: **Skin is blotchy, bright red or pink. Fingers and toes may feel cold and appear bluish. There may be areas of peeling if any vernix is left on the skin.**
6. Vernix: **A substance that covers the neonate's body while in the womb to protect it from the amniotic fluid.**
7. Lanugo: **A fine hair that covers the neonate's body. It protected the skin while in the womb.**

8. **Milia: Tiny white bumps that look like tiny whiteheads. They are caused by vernix clogging the pores in the skin. They will disappear within two or three weeks.**
9. **Angel's kiss: Patches of deep pink skin found on the bridge of the nose, forehead, or eyelids.**
10. **Stork bite: A patch of deep pink skin found at the nape of the neck.**
11. **Mongolian spot: Large, flat, green-blue bruise on the lower back or buttocks. Will disappear by age 5 or 6.**
12. **Sucking blister: A blister found in the center of the top lip. Caused from the neonate sucking its thumb while in the womb.**
13. **Cradle Cap: A crusty patch on the scalp.**
14. **Gestation: The time the fetus spends in the womb.**
15. **Premature: When a baby is born before 38 weeks gestation.**
16. **Low birth weight: A newborn weighing less than 2.5 kg or 5 1/2 pounds.**
17. **APGAR scale: A test used shortly after delivery to evaluate the infant's physical development.**
18. **Gonococcal infection/silver nitrate: An antiseptic ointment put into the baby's eyes within one hour of birth.**
19. **Blood test for anemia/PKU/cystic fibrosis: A test done by analyzing a few drops of blood that have been drawn from the baby's heel.**
20. **Swollen genitals: Because the neonate has received a large amount of his/her mother's hormones during pregnancy, the genitals may be swollen.**
21. **Circumcision: The removal of the foreskin of the tip of the penis.**
22. **Merconium: The term used for the neonate's first bowel movements.**
23. **Jaundice: A yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments.**
23. **Sleeping: Infants should lay on their back or side to sleep, not on their stomachs.**