

Birth Injuries in Newborns

Objectives

- Recognize that although the number of birth injuries has decreased in recent decades, such unintended injuries have an impact on neonatal intensive care unit admissions and remain a major cause of neonatal morbidity
- List the most common factors that predispose a newborn to injury during birth
- Explain the importance of early recognition and documentation of birth injuries and outline the proposed treatment approaches presented for injuries ranging from mild and self-limiting to critical and potentially life-threatening
- Describe the importance of a thorough physical examination following a difficult birth with consideration given to the possibility of birth injury among the differential diagnoses established based on findings

Content Outline

1. The Broad Spectrum of Birth Injuries
 - 1.1 Factors predisposing the infant to birth injury
 - 1.2 Etiology, clinical presentation, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis for
 - 1.2.1 Soft tissue injuries
 - 1.2.2 Injuries to the skull
 - 1.2.3 Facial injuries including eyes, ears, nose, and vocal cords
 - 1.2.4 Injuries involving the neck, shoulder, girdle, and chest
 - 1.2.5 Spine and spinal cord injuries
 - 1.2.6 Intra-abdominal organ injury
 - 1.2.7 Injuries to the extremities
 - 1.2.8 Trauma to the genitalia
 - 1.2.9 Intrapartum fetal monitoring-related injuries
 - 1.3 Injuries secondary to maternal trauma during pregnancy

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2245: Birth Injuries in Newborns is based on the resource listed below. A copy of the resource is included with the module.

Chapter 29 Birth Injuries, Prazad PA, et al., in Fanaroff and Martin's Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (2020), Elsevier, 458-488