



Necrotizing Enterocolitis

- Acute inflammation and segmental necrosis of the intestinal wall
- Pathogenesis multifactorial: intestinal murosal injury/ mesenteric ischemia => bacterial proliferation (secondary to substrate provided by feeds => invasion of damaged mucosa => inflammation => coagulation necrosis
- Occurs commonly at terminal ileum/ proximal colon (watershed area)

NEC - Epidemiology

- Overall incidence 1-5% of NICU admits
- Inversely related to GA/ BW
- ... but 10% occur in term neonates!
- Usually occurs once near full enteral feeds
 - For GA <26wks, median onset 23 days
 - For GA >31wks, median onset 11 days

NEC – Risk factors

- Prematurity
- Perinatal asphyxia
- Maternal cocaine
- Dehydration/shock
- RDS
- Umbilical lines
- PDA (diastolic steal)
- CHD
- · Polycythemia/ anemia

- Thombocytosis
- Exchange transfusion
- GI anomalie
- Non- BM formula
- NJ feeds
- Hypertonic formula
- Rapid feed advance
- Colonization with necrogenic bacteria

NEC – Clinical signs

Systemic

- RDS, A&B's
- Lethargy
- Temp instability
- Hypotension (shock)
- Acidosis
- Oliguria
- DIC

Enterio

- Increased residualsAbdominal distension
- Vomiting (bilious)
- Absent bowel sounds
- Abd wall erythema/ induration/ mass
- Ascites
- Gross blood in stool

Necrotizing Enterocolitis clinical presentation























NEC - Staging (Bell et al)

- Stage I (suspected NEC): temp instability, A&B's, lethargy, increased residuals, mild abdominal distension, emesis, heme + stool, xray nor mild ileus
- Stage II (definite/ medical NEC): Stage I AND absent bowel sounds, mild metabolic acidosis, thrombocytopenia, abdominal cellulitis, Xray neus and pneumatosis
- Stage III (advanced/ surgical NEC): Stage II AND shock, severe acidosis, DIC, neutropenia, peritonits/ ascites, pneumoperitoneum

NEC - management

- NPO/ bowel rest
- Gastric drainage (sump to LIS)
- Septic w/u
- Broad spectrum abx (ampicillin, gentamicin, flagyl)
- Serial abdominal exam/ xray (2 views) every 6-8 hrs initially
- Frequent labs (CBC, BMP, ABG)
- Mechanical ventilation
- Pressor support
- Remove umbilical lines!
- Paracentesis
- Local peritoneal drainage (for < 1000g)
- Surgery (+/- 2nd look @ 24-72 hrs)

NEC - prevention

- Early reports of delayed feedings leading to decreased NEC not substantiated by prospective trials
- Mixed data on trophic/ dilute feeds, speed of advancing feeds...but MAX 20cc/kg/day
- Mixed data on antenatal steroids but lung benefits make standard of care
- Mixed data on oral immunoglobulins metanalysis does not support routine use
- Preliminary studies with L-arginine (NO precursor) and L-carnitine (anti-oxidant) supplementation promising

NEC – prevention (cont)

- Oral antibiotics may reduce incidence of NEC and related deaths but adverse effects, development of resistance preclude routine use
- Mixed studies regarding indomethacin rx for PDA and increased NEC risk
- Formula fed infants with 6-10x NEC risk compared to breastfed (multifactorial: Igs, IL-10, erythropoetin, epidermal growth factor, platelet activating factor (PAF)- acetylhydrolase)
- Promising animal and preliminary studies regarding benefits of probiotics

NEC - refeeding

- To start...
 - after bowel rest x 7-14 days
 - Normalized AXR
 - Clinically stable
- Formula or BM (preferred), may require more elemental formula
- Strength/ volume GRADUALLY increased
- For patients w/ ostomy- watch output (should be < 30-40% of feeds)

NEC - Qutcome

- Mortality 30-40% (up to 50% for Stage III)
- Strictures 15-35% (may develop even after 6 months after episode)
- Adhesions/ bowel obstruction in 5% of surgical patients
- Short gut syndrome (>50% of bowel removed) also associated with malabsorption (fat, B12, bile salts) and TPN complications (cholestasis occurs in 7-40% if on > 2mo, line sepsis)

Short Bowel Syndrome

Two Causes:

•Congenital •Surgical resection

Treatment:

•Supportive care

•TPN

•Enteral alimentation with semielemental formula

•Continuous infusion

•Supplemental Na+, K+. Bicarb, Ca++, Mg++

Short Bowel Syndrome

Treatment:

Fat-soluble vitamins

- Vitamin B₁₂
- Rx of severe diarrhea:

Cholestyramine

Non-absorbable antibiotics

Correction of blind loops and stagnant sections of the bowel



