

UNIT 2: OBSTETRICS
SECTION A: NORMAL OBSTETRICS

Educational Topic 12: Immediate Care of the Newborn

Rationale: Assessment of the newborn allows recognition of abnormalities requiring intervention.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

A student should be able to:

- List techniques for assessing newborn status
- Describe immediate care of the normal newborn
- Recognize situations requiring immediate intervention in newborn care
- Describe the risks and benefits of male infant circumcision

TEACHING CASE

CASE: A term male newborn infant at 5 minutes of age is assigned an Apgar score of 4 at 1 minute by the charge nurse. Currently, he has a heart rate of 110, a vigorous cry, active motion of all four extremities, bluish hands and feet, and a positive grimace. Because of the low 1-minute Apgar score, the charge nurse sent a cord gas. The 5-minute Apgar is 9. The following umbilical arterial gas measurements were noted: pH 7.14, pCO₂ 69 mm Hg, HCO₃ 23.

COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice

1. How do you decide if this newborn is doing well?

2. What are the important first steps in caring for any newborn?

3. Though this infant needed no additional resuscitation, what signs and symptoms would prompt you to offer additional interventions? What additional interventions would you offer?

REFERENCES

- Beckman CRB, et al. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.
- Hacker NF, Moore JG, et al. *Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2010.
- ACOG Committee Opinion 326, Inappropriate Use of the Terms Fetal Distress and Birth Asphyxia, December 2005.
- ACOG Committee Opinion 333, The Apgar Score, May 2006, reaffirmed 2010.