

Danger Signs in Newborn

Sick newborn

Early detection,
prompt treatment and
referral (if required)
are necessary to prevent high mortality

Problems in early diagnosis of sick newborn

- ❖ Non-specific signs
- ❖ Difficulties in preterm and LBW babies

Lethargy and poor sucking

- ❖ In a term baby who was feeding earlier → indicates neonatal illness (as perceived by mother)
- ❖ In a preterm baby → needs careful assessment because it may be due to cold stress or immaturity

Capillary refill time (CRT)

- ❖ Indicates tissue perfusion
 - ❖ Normal CRT < 3 seconds
 - ❖ Prolonged CRT \geq 3 seconds *
 - ❖ Use 10ml/kg normal saline bolus
- * Hypotension, hypothermia, acidosis

Capillary refill time (CRT)



Respiratory problems

- ❖ RR > 60 / min*
- ❖ Retractions
- ❖ Grunt
- ❖ Central cyanosis
- ❖ Apnea

*Rate should be counted in a quiet state and not immediately after feed

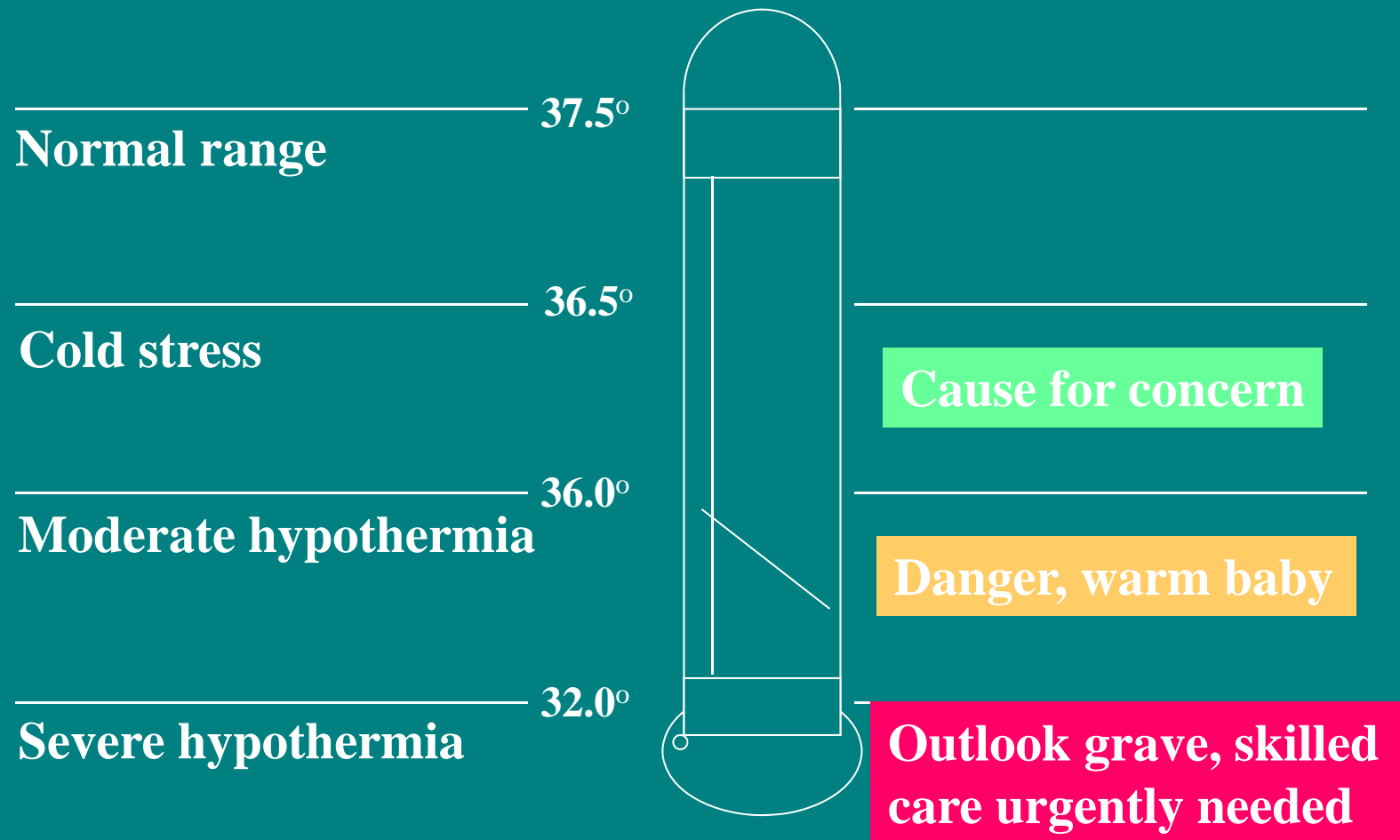


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Teaching Aids: NNF

DS- 8

Body temperature in newborn infant (°C)



Failure to pass meconium and urine

Failure to pass meconium

Majority pass within 24 hrs

- ❖ Delayed passage
- ❖ May have passed in –utero
- ❖ Lubricated per-rectal thermometer may be therapeutic
- ❖ Suspect obstruction

Failure to pass urine

Majority pass within 48 hrs

- ❖ Delayed passage
- ❖ Exclude obstructive uropathy or renal agenesis

Causes of vomiting*

- ❖ Ingestion of meconium stained amniotic fluid
- ❖ Systemic illness
- ❖ Congestive cardiac failure
- ❖ Raised ICP – IVH, asphyxia
- ❖ Metabolic disorders (CAH, galactosemia)

**Persistent, projectile or bile stained - r / o intestinal obstruction*

Causes of diarrhea

- ❖ Infective diarrhea* (often non breast fed baby)
- ❖ Maternal ingestion of drugs (ampicillin, laxatives)
- ❖ Metabolic disorders
- ❖ Thyrotoxicosis
- ❖ Maternal drug addiction

*Infective diarrhea needs treatment with systemic antibiotics

Cyanosis

Peripheral

- ❖ Normal at birth
- ❖ Seen in extremities due to cold

Central

- ❖ Always needs appropriate referral
- ❖ Seen on lips and mucosa
- ❖ Indicates cardiac or pulmonary disease

Peripheral cyanosis



Central cyanosis



Yellow Palms & Soles



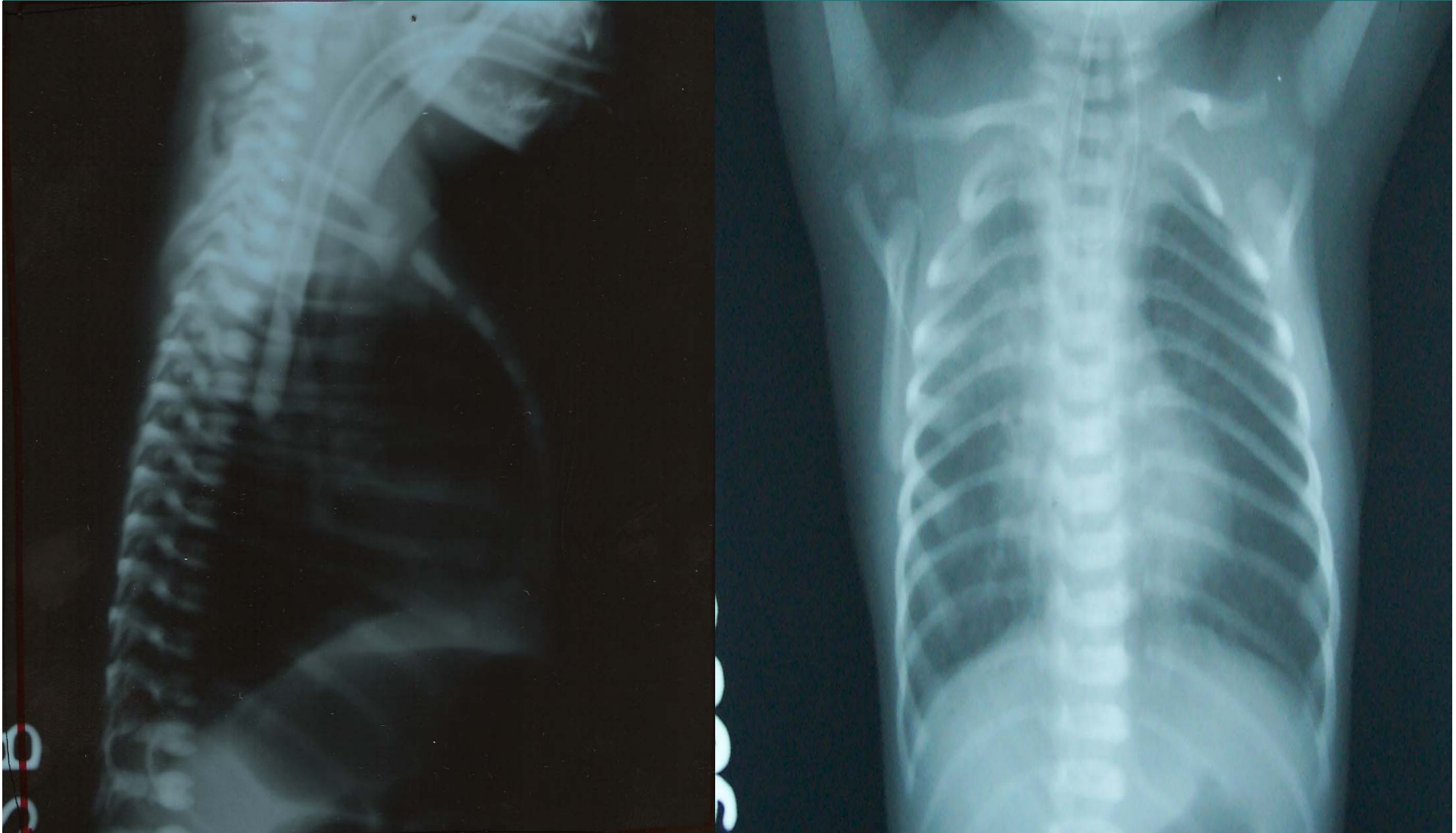
Yellow staining of soles



Tracheo-esophageal fistula

- ❖ Excessive drooling; choking; cyanosis during feeds; respiratory distress
- ❖ Failure to pass red rubber catheter beyond 8 to 10 cm from mouth

Tracheo-esophageal fistula



Suspect cardiac disease

- ❖ Cyanosis
- ❖ Tachycardia
- ❖ Murmur
- ❖ Hepatomegaly
- ❖ Shock
- ❖ Cardiomegaly

Abnormal weight loss pattern

- ❖ > 10 percent of birth weight in term
- ❖ > 15 percent in preterm
- ❖ > 5 percent acute weight loss

Danger signs : Summary

- ❖ Lethargy
- ❖ Hypothermia
- ❖ Respiratory distress
- ❖ Cyanosis
- ❖ Convulsion
- ❖ Abd. distension
- ❖ Bleeding
- ❖ Yellow palms/
soles
- ❖ Excessive wt. loss
- ❖ Vomiting
- ❖ Diarrhea