Neonatal transport

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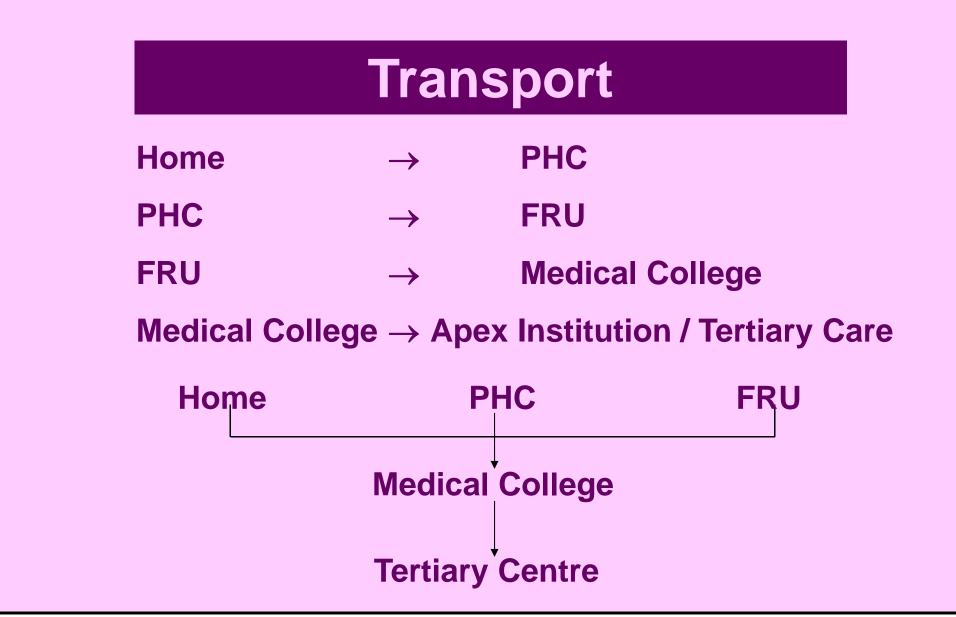
- Transporting sick neonates is not an easy task
- In utero transport is far more rewarding than the transport of sick neonates after birth
- Care providers should, therefore, be ready, competent and confident to handle this responsibility

Constraints in neonatal transport

A challenge in developing countries

- Scarce and inaccessible facilities
- Lack of organized transport system
- Road links poor or non-existent
- Communication systems not developed

Constraints in neonatal transport (contd...) A challenge in developing countries • Ill equipped health facilities Families have poor resources • No provider accompanies baby • No care possible en route





Prepare well before transport

Make careful assessment of the need and urgency of referral

Correct hypothermia before – it is going to worsen during travel

Before transport

- 1. Communicate, write a note
- 2. Encourage mother to accompany
- 3. Arrange provider to accompany
- 4. Explain care during travel

Communicate

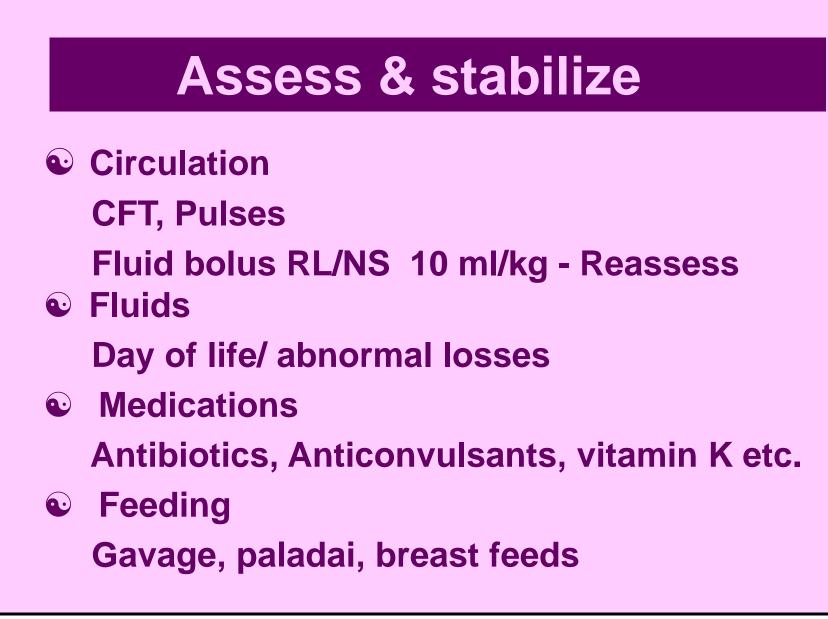
Explain the condition, the prognosis and the reasons for referral of the baby

Explain where to go and whom to contact

 Inform the referral facility beforehand, if possible

Assess & stabilize

 Temperature Tactile / Thermometer Warmer/Cover / KMC
Airway Position/Suction
Breathing Tactile stimulation / PPV 100% O2



Who to accompany ?

- Mother should accompany, as far as possible
- A doctor / nurse / dai / health worker should accompany the baby, if feasible

Care during transport

- Ensure warm feet
- Ensure open airway
- Check breathing; stimulate, if apneic
- Provide feeds, if active

Warm transport

- Skin to skin care
- Well covered
- Improvised containers
- Transport incubator (rare)

Skin to skin care

(Kangaroo Mother Care)

Baby is naked except for a cap and napkin

- Baby is placed facing the mother in skin to skin contact between breasts
- Baby's back is covered by tying the blouse or with a fold of gown / 'chunari'

Another woman or a man (father) can also provide



Teaching Aids: NNF

If provider not accompanying

• Avoid running I.V. fluids

Avoid oro-and nasogastric feeds

Avoid hot water filled bags for warmth

Summary of safe transport for neonates

Prepare well before transport

- Communicate, write a note
- Assess & stabilize

Correct hypothermia

During transport

Caregiver to accompany

• Arrange a provider to accompany

Ensure warm transport

Conclusion

 Neonatal transport in developing countries is a formidable challenge
A simple approach is required
Family plays a major role
There is a need to educate providers

Take the baby to the nearest referral facility, by the shortest route, using the fastest possible mode of transport

Teaching Aids: NNF