

Neugeborenen-Notfälle

Erstversorgung und Intensivmedizin - Online: Refresher-Fragen

Bearbeitet von
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Geleitwort I

Emergencies constitute a fundamental part of newborn medicine. I learned this the hard way shortly after I had finished medical school 40 years ago. As a research fellow in perinatal medicine I was offered to work a week now and then in the neonatal intensive care unit, in spite of no formal training. After one or two days I had my first call and had to run to the obstetrical department, where a severely asphyxiated boy had been delivered. I have to admit that I did not know what to do. The insufficiency I felt and the incompetence of my handlings made me decide that this would not happen again. The fascination of dealing with and handling acute events in a satisfactory way has been an important part of my life ever since. However, I have never forgotten this boy at my first call, in spite of the fact that I, during the past 40 years, have dealt with thousands of severely ill newborn infants.

Today we talk about the first »golden minutes« of life: these precious minutes when it is so important to do everything as correctly as possible. We know today that newborn babies should not be ventilated with too high or too low tidal volumes and we know that we should avoid excessive oxygen even briefly. And so many acute events may occur in the nursery in the time following these first »golden minutes«

after birth. For many of the most immature and vulnerable infants even small deviations from normality for a brief period may be catastrophic. It is a huge burden for health personnel to carry the future of the whole life of a human being during these important minutes – and not only the life of the newborn but also implications for its family.

There is a need for evidence-based guidelines for everyone involved in emergencies in the neonatal period. Georg Hansmann and his colleagues have written an impressive comprehensive volume on *Neonatal Emergencies*. Here we find the most recent and modern views on a wide specter of emergencies in neonatal medicine summarized in a clear and didactic manner. This is simply a book for the future. Every pediatric resident and fellow and every neonatologist would benefit from reading this book. Experienced or not, *Neonatal Emergencies* will be a great help in the daily and often stressful life of everyone dealing with sick and fragile newborn infants.

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