

Answers to Case Study Questions

1. Sunanda delivered on November 30th at 8:20 a.m. At the time of delivery she had completed 8 months 5 days gestation. The baby's birth weight was 1 kg 950 grams. The baby was fine for the first 6 days. On the 7th day, when the ASHA visited she found the baby had stopped suckling and had a distended abdomen. She was breathing well but her cry was weak. Her weight was 1 kg 900 grams.

The ASHA diagnoses sepsis because the baby had stopped feeding and had a distended abdomen.

What would you do first? Explain to the parents that the baby has sepsis which is a severe infection. She should be treated in the hospital. If that is not possible for the parents, you (the ASHA) can treat the baby at home with an injection and medicine by mouth. The parents should know that the baby may die even with treatment and the ASHA will not be held responsible. A consent form will need to be signed before the baby is treated at home.

What is the treatment for this baby (dose and number of days)?

Gentamicin injection 6 mg once a day for 10 days

Cotramoxizole ¼ teaspoon twice a day for 10 days

Why?

Because the baby is less than 2 kg and was born preterm.

How often would you visit? Twice a day for 10 days

What would you tell the parents about home care?

1. keep the baby warm
2. breastfeed every two hours
3. review risk signs and call ASHA if the baby gets sicker

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2. Vimal's baby boy was born a week after the expected date and weighed 2.900 kg.

He was strong and healthy. The ASHA helped Vimal start breastfeeding and performed the examination at one hour.

On the 10th day the mother said the baby was cold. The temperature was 93° F (33.9° C). His weight was 3 kg.

He was still feeding and crying but he had chest indrawing.

His abdomen was soft and his limbs flexed.

His umbilical had healed well.

The ASHA diagnoses sepsis.

What would you do first? Explain to the parents that the baby has sepsis. Suggest they take the baby to the hospital. If this is not feasible, explain the treatment and get a signed informed consent to treat the baby at home. Treat them with respect but make sure they are aware of how serious the situation is.

What reason is there to get an informed consent form signed by parents? Parents should know that sepsis is very serious. The baby could die even with treatment. They should take the responsibility of treating the baby at home. They should know that the treatment consists of an injection and oral medicine. Sometimes there can be problems with the injection. The ASHA should not be blamed if there are problems.

What treatment do you decide to give (give reasons):

Gentamicin injection 15 mg once daily for 7 days

Cotramoxizole ¼ teaspoon two times daily for 7 days

The reason is that the baby weighs 3 kg and was born full term.

What do you tell the parents before you leave?

1. Keep the baby warm
2. Breastfeed every two hours
3. Review risk signs and call ASHA if the baby gets sicker

How often do you return? Two times a day for 7 days (day 17).

3. Tarabai was pregnant with her fourth baby.

The baby delivered at 7 months 27 days gestation and weighed 1.650 kg. The baby could not suckle up to the 14th day.

On the 15th day, the baby could suckle from the breast.

On 28th day, the baby weighed 2.250 kg. The ASHA began visiting in the 2nd month and strengthened her efforts to improve the infant's weight.

On the 45th day, the baby's limbs were limp and the mother said the baby was cold. The baby's temperature was 94° F (34.4° C) and weighed 2.500 kg. The ASHA diagnosed sepsis.

What risk factors did the baby have at birth? Preterm, LBW, poor suckling

What criteria was used to determine sepsis? Baby had all limbs limp and cold (hypothermia)

How would you explain the problem and the need for their informed consent before treatment?

Explain to the parents that the baby has sepsis & this is a dangerous infection. Suggest they take the baby to the hospital. If this is not feasible, explain the treatment and get an informed consent form signed before treating the baby at home.

What dose would you use and for how many days?

Gentamicin injection 9 mg once a day for 10 days.

Cotramoxizole ¼ teaspoon twice a day for 10 days.

What would you tell the parents about home care?

The baby has been high risk from birth. Preterm babies need extra care. Now the baby also has sepsis so it is very important to :

1. Keep the baby warm
2. Breastfeed every two hours
3. Review risk signs and call ASHA if the baby gets sicker