

CLINIPICS

Neonates are special

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Extensive monitoring is necessary in a neonate about to undergo major surgical procedure. One should never forget to use warming mattress and other measures to prevent hypothermia. As hypothermia is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in neonates and infants.



Inhaled foreign bodies

Symptoms of inhaled foreign bodies (FB) vary widely from acute respiratory distress to minor coughing episodes. The effects may however, be profound, e.g. life-threatening asphyxia, to pneumonic episodes, bronchiectasis, emphysema and lung abscess leading to empyema. Occasionally a major surgical procedure may be necessary, where the involved lung may have to be removed.



A high index of suspicion is always required. Accurate history taken from the parents, physical observation and auscultation, are the most important factors in diagnosing the possibility of retained FB. Finally hyper-inflation / collapse/ consolidation seen on an X-ray chest may help in diagnosing non-radioopaque FB.

An inhaled peanut is the one of the most notorious FB as it may be very difficult to be removed.

