

# NEONATAL HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS (HSV) INFECTION

Infants  $\leq 60$  days of age with +ve HSV PCR  
from skin, mucous membranes, blood or CSF

## INCIDENCE

6.9 per 100,000 live births in the UK

This is roughly one baby born  
every two years in UHL

## HSV TRANSMISSION

Intrauterine (5%)

Perinatal (85%)

Postnatal (10%)

## DID YOU KNOW?

50% of pregnant mothers with genital  
herpes never experience symptoms

40% of cases with disseminated HSV  
do not have skin lesions

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## THINK HSV!

1. In any **sick neonate** presenting with nonspecific signs (poor feeding, sleepiness)
2. Regardless of **maternal history** (often **asymptomatic**, check if any close-contacts have orofacial lesions)
3. **Transaminitis** can be an early sign
4. If clinical suspicion- obtain skin swabs (eye, mouth, NPA & vesicles), blood, CSF for **HSV PCR** and
5. **Treat with Aciclovir IV**

## LABORATORY ABNORMALITIES

### CSF:

↑ lymphocytes

### Blood:

FBC: ↓ neutrophils, ↓ Plts

Coag: Coagulopathy

LFT's: ↑ ALT, ↑ AST, ↑ Bili

CRP often normal

## TREATMENT

Please scan QR codes  
for local guidance

Insert QR codes and details for your  
local trust guidance [HERE](#)