

NICU Disease Process Map

D.O.B. 08/22/24

APGAR at birth: 3/5/8

Gestational Age: 36wks5days

Adjusted Gestational Age: 39wks3days

Birthweight: 5lbs. 2oz./2705grams

Current weight: 6lbs. 18oz./2805grams

Disease Name: Cleft soft palate, Cleft hard palate

What tests and labs will be ordered?

Possibly chest x-ray to check for aspiration, imaging of the mouth and nose. Labs have been ordered to evaluate for an additional chromosomal abnormality.

What am I going to see during my assessment?

Large opening/defect in the soft and hard palate of the mouth, grunting/snorting while breathing especially after feeds.

What are risk factors for the diagnosis?

Smoking during pregnancy, alcohol use while pregnant, maternal obesity, lack of folic acid during pregnancy, some anti seizure medications.

I would expect this baby to possibly have trouble gaining weight adequately, she struggles to take full feeds from a bottle, even with nipples and other devices in place she struggles to adequately remove milk effectively. Baby was gavage fed several times due to her falling asleep and not being able to maintain sats and struggling with the feed flowing into the airway.

What trends and findings are expected?

Slow weight gain, potential speech delay and need for therapies as the baby gets older.

What is happening in the body?

This is happening due to the body not fully closing the soft and hard palates while the child was growing.

What are the long-term complications?

Baby will require multiple surgeries to correct the defect and many different specialities will follow this child for a long time to help with speech, eating, facial reconstruction as needed as the child grows.

What patient teaching for management and/or prevention can the nurse do?

Proper feeding techniques, correct bottle and nipple selection.

Monitoring how much intake the baby is actually getting.

How will you know your patient is improving?

Improvement will be assessed through adequate weight gain and the baby being able to maintain her sats while eating, being able to stay awake for a full feed and eat all through a nipple.

Baby is able to adequately suck from a bottle without flow into the nostrils and airway.