

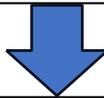
## NICU Disease Process Map

D.O.B. <u>9/19/25</u>	APGAR at birth: <u>1 min: 9</u>
Gestational Age <u>37w2d</u>	<u>5 min: 9</u> Adjusted Gestational Age <u>38w1d</u>
Birthweight <u>5 lbs. 3.6 oz.</u>	<u>2370</u> grams
Current weight <u>4 lbs. 0.7 oz.</u>	<u>2250</u> grams

Disease Name: Myelomeningocele

What is happening in the body?

type of neural tube defect in which spine/spinal cord fail to fully close allowing for a portion of the spinal cord to protrude through an opening in the baby's back - usually in a CSF filled sac



What am I going to see during my assessment?

a translucent sac around the lumbar caudal region of the back



What tests and labs will be ordered?

ultrasounds, X-rays, MRIs  
neurologic exams  
urine/blood tests



What trends and findings are expected?

Chiari II malformation  
loss of nerve-related function below defect  
bowel/bladder dysfunction



What medications and nursing interventions/treatments will you anticipate?

monitoring pt after surgical closure / placement of VP shunt  
prevention of infection, monitor FOC  
antibiotics



How will you know your patient is improving?

stable vital signs, no signs of increased ICP, motor skills / sensory function progressing, better bladder / bowel control



What are risk factors for the diagnosis?

family history of neural tube defects, maternal folate deficiency, ↑ maternal age, race



What are the long-term complications?

hydrocephalus, paralysis / sensory loss in lower limbs, persistent bladder / bowel dysfunction



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

post-op: keep baby positioned off of surgical site, monitor for s/s of infection, adhere to medications  
prevention: adequate folate intake during pregnancy

