

Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)

A Resource for Parents & for Pros

What is NEC?:

Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) is a disease that primarily infects the immature bowel of the premature infant. Intestines are perhaps the weakest in the body's systems and are easily affected by infection and blood flow changes. NEC is a toxic inflammation in the intestine that literally kills the intestine. Your baby's medical team knows that it is so very important to watch for this and to catch it immediately since it can spread so quickly and cause significant and quite serious damage. Often, NEC is caught by the signs of sepsis in the blood stream. The least invasive measure of treatment is to have your infant be treated with a series of antibiotics while remaining off foods and being fed through a central line or Broviac. In the worst-case scenario your baby will be subjected to surgery where the sick part of the intestine is removed.

*This excerpt is from **The Premie Parent's Guide to Survival in the NICU** at www.PremieWorld.com*

Resources:



The Morgan Leary Vaughan Fund (www.MorgansFund.org), is a public charity dedicated to Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC). Its mission is to promote public awareness about NEC and to advance research to prevent, diagnose, treat and ultimately, cure NEC:

"About Necrotizing Enterocolitis." kidshealth.org. The Nemours Foundation, 1995-2013. Web. 20 August 2013. <http://bit.ly/kidshealthNEC>

Linden, Dana W., Mia W. Doron and Emma T. Paroli. In Plain Language: What is Necrotizing Enterocolitis? *Preemies: The Essential Guide for Parents of Premature Babies*. New York: Pocket Books, 2000. 237-40. Print.

Linden, Dana W., Mia W. Doron and Emma T. Paroli. Surgery to Treat NEC. *Preemies: The Essential Guide for Parents of Premature Babies*. New York: Pocket Books, 2000. 313-15. Print.

NEC (Necrotizing Enterocolitis)—Closed Facebook group. <http://bit.ly/FBGroupNEC>

NEC Parents Support Group—Closed Facebook group. <http://bit.ly/NECParentsFB>

"Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)." The American Pediatric Surgical Association. n.d. Web. 23 August 2012. <http://bit.ly/apsaNEC>

"Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC): Overview." Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. n.d. Web. 20 August 2013. <http://bit.ly/nichdNEC>

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