

How much milk is too little or too much?

The fluid requirement from about one week of age to six months of age for a term baby = 150ml/kg/24 hours.

This can be measured easily if using formula feeds, however if breast feeding then weights are used along with length of time feeding.

Formula feeds are normally calculated in ounces, therefore it is useful to know that:

1 ounce = 30 grams

If a 4kg 2 month old is taking 3 ounces every 4 hours then:

$$120g \times 6 (24/4) = 720g$$

$$720g/4kg = 180ml$$

This infant is potentially being overfed if they present with vomiting and are otherwise well with appropriate weight gain.

The most accurate way to assess is by weighing and plotting onto a centile chart.

Newborn babies will need to feed 2-3 hourly progressing to 4 hourly at about 6 weeks of age for most babies. Breastfeeding is usually performed on demand.

Why is this important?

Babies may present with vomiting to ED and one of the most common causes of this is overfeeding.

Other causes of vomiting in babies

- Possetting
- Reflux
- GORD
- Cow's milk allergy
- Pyloric Stenosis
- Gastroenteritis
- Intussusception
- Sepsis
- Raised ICP

NEONATAL SEPSIS

This may present as poor feeding, lethargy, irritability, apnoea, bradycardia, hypothermia or mottled skin in addition to the more common signs & symptoms.

Consider in any unwell child.

Any temperature in an infant < 3 months requires a full septic screen. This includes:

- Blood tests – FBC, U&Es, LFTs, CRP, blood cultures
- CXR
- Urine microscopy & culture (urinalysis may be inaccurate in those <2 years, even with a clean catch)
- Lumbar puncture

Empirical antibiotics

<72 hrs of age – IV Benzylpenicillin & IV Gentamicin

>72 hrs of age - IV Cefotaxime, IV Amoxicillin & IV Gentamicin

>1 months – IV Cefotaxime & Gentamicin (& IV Amoxicillin up to 6 weeks for Listeria cover)



Left – purpura
Right- mottled skin
Below – after
antibiotics!

