

* What is umbilical cord infection?

Before or after separation of umbilical stump, bacteria invade the cord and cause infection.

* Symptoms of umbilical cord infection

Umbilical area may be inflamed, swelling, and elevation of umbilical fossa. Peri-umbilical skin appeared generalized erythema. The baby may be irritable, and associated with fever if worsened.

* Nursing care of umbilical cord infection

- Within 7-10 days after birth, the umbilical stump will natural drying and shrink, then falls off.
- It's normal phenomenon to notice the peri-umbilical area presenting with lightly yellow secretion.

- Exact way of umbilical cord care : first use 95% alcohol to promote drying; once umbilical stump falls off , use 75% alcohol as disinfectant.



- The main priority of caring umbilical cord is to keep it clean and dry, dressing is not necessary.

- Fold down the diaper below umbilical area, to avoid urine induced infection.



- Avoid applying the umbilical stump with polyvidone-iodine or unknown drug powder.
- After umbilical stump falls off, keep umbilical care until the base of umbilicus is dry without secretion. If still presenting with large amount of discharge more than one week, please consult the pediatrician.

Nursing care of preventing umbilical cord infection in newborn babies

For inquiries: Chung Shan Hospital
Tel: (02) 2708-1166
Nursery Ext.:2220

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