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Feeding Skills in Preterm Infants: Balancing Neuro-Development & Physiologic Stability with Appropriate Feeding Practices

1. To learn the development of suck, swallow, and breathe in preterm infants
2. To understand the importance of physiologic stability and behavioral cues for oral feedings
3. To learn the consequences of stress during feedings and how appropriate feeding strategies can help
4. To manage feeding skills after NICU discharge in private practices for follow-up care.

Apneas, Bradycardias, & Desaturations During Oral Feedings in Growing Premies: Nature vs Nurture

1. To learn the significance of laryngeal chemo-receptors and their elicited response,
2. To learn the physiology of As, Bs, Ds, during swallowing,
3. To demonstrate fluoroscopic evidence of naso-pharyngeal reflux, penetration, aspiration, etc.
4. To understand various strategies to prevent As, Bs, Ds during oral feedings.
5. To manage infants in private practices for follow-up care.

To Thicken or Not to Thicken: Treatment Approaches for Neonatal Dysphagia

1. To learn the sensory-motor mechanisms needed for safe swallowing;
2. To identify the swallowing deficits most prevalent in preterm infants;
3. To understand the rationales to support or negate liquid thickening;
4. To obtain knowledge about the different thickeners available to preterm infants.

Neonatal Video Fluoroscopic Swallow Study in the assessment of Dysphagia

1. To learn the anatomy and physiology of the swallowing mechanism in infants
2. To link video-fluoroscopic evidence with recent literature regarding neonatal dysphagia
3. To identify appropriate Modifications used to improve swallowing safety
4. To understand the essentials of performing a video-fluoroscopic swallow study and issues of radiation exposure.

The use of Respiratory Devices During Oral Feedings: A Look into the In-Direct Research

1. To learn the necessary sensory-motor responses required for safe swallowing
2. To understand the physiological responses of high flow respiratory devices on the pharyngeal and esophageal swallowing mechanisms
3. To review the available in-direct literature to improve clinical decision making
4. To discuss a research design which will objectively assess if there are any swallowing alterations when respiratory devices are in use

Transitioning to Full Oral Feedings: A Look into Cue-Based Protocols for the Practicing Neonatologist

1. To learn the neuro-developmental theories behind cue-based feeding protocols
2. To review the most recently published cue-based protocols
3. To understand the significant benefits of a cue-based protocol on short-term and long-term outcomes.
4. To identify strategies that can assist with unit-wide establishment of a new protocol