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## Preventing herpes simplex virus in the newborn

Swetha G Pinninti <sup>1</sup>, David W Kimberlin <sup>2</sup>

Affiliations

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### Affiliations

- 1 Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1600 Seventh Avenue South, CHB 308, Birmingham, AL 35233, USA.
- 2 Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1600 Seventh Avenue South, CHB 303, Birmingham, AL 35233, USA. Electronic address: dkimberlin@peds.uab.edu.

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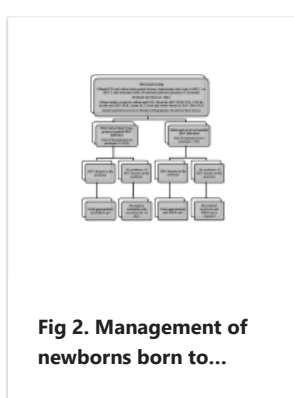
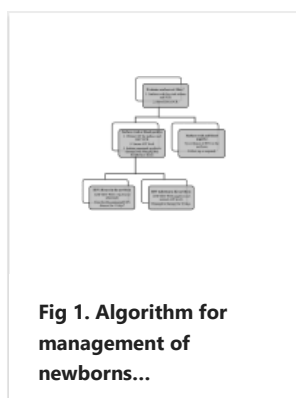
### Abstract

Genital herpes simplex virus (HSV) infections are very common worldwide. Approximately 22% of pregnant women are infected genitally with HSV, and most of them are unaware of this. The most devastating consequence of maternal genital herpes is HSV disease in the newborn. Although neonatal HSV infections remain uncommon, due to the significant morbidity and mortality associated with the infection, HSV infection in the newborn is often considered in the differential diagnosis of ill neonates. This review summarizes the epidemiology and management of neonatal HSV infections and discusses strategies to prevent HSV infection in the newborn.

**Keywords:** Acyclovir; Antiviral therapy; Genital herpes; HSV; PCR.

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