**Enteral Feeding for Neonates**

**Essential things you should know about enteral feeding**

- Enteral feeding systems for neonates and infants are not all the same
  - Most are adapted from adult products and are not suitable for neonates
- Fats typically comprise less than 5% of the volume of expressed breast milk
  - Typically 41g/L according to Kent et al¹, so a small loss can be critical
- The fats in expressed breast milk typically represent at least 50% of the calories²
  - The lipid content is critical to neonatal nutrition
- Most enteral syringes do not deliver the lipid content effectively
  - Syringe materials and design create lipid adherence and retention
- Choice of enteral feeding system can significantly impact a baby’s weight gain
  - Lipid delivery can be compromised due to adherence
- Bacteria can typically colonise in breast milk in less than 8 hours
  - So it is important that feed is not trapped in the feeding tube distal tip
- Most ENFit enteral feeding tubes increase the risk of infection
  - Feeding tube connectors act as a trap for the feed and can’t be cleaned effectively
- Many enteral feeding tubes may increase the risk of NEC
  - Closed distal tips trap feed and increase risk of bacterial colonisation
- The ENFit standard is deemed essential for safety in enteral feeding³,⁴,⁵,⁶
  - It derives from EN ISO 80369-3 and adoption in the NHS must be completed imminently
- Dose accuracy for neonates and infants is critical due to low volumes
  - Adult ENFit enteral feeding solutions can cause unacceptable errors
- ENFit syringes with Low Dose Tip are essential up to 5mL
  - Combined inaccuracy of a standard tip and the syringe itself⁷ can be over 10%
- Delta Medical International can offer solutions to all the above issues
  - We are the exclusive distributor for the NeoMed range in the UK
  - The NeoMed enteral feeding product range is unrivalled for neonates
  - Designs are specific to the needs of neonatal and paediatric patients

We would be pleased to talk to you about the technical and practical issues faced in enteral feeding for babies and how we can help you offer best possible care.

**References**

The products below are a sample of the NeoMed range, for full details please contact us.

Feeding tubes in polyurethane (PU), silicone and PVC, with a full range of lengths and gauges, all fully ENFit compliant. Patented designs can help reduce the risk of NEC by allowing cleaning of the connector and preventing bacterial colonisation of trapped feed in the distal tip.

Extension sets with different lengths and bore configurations. Options with injection port available.

Full range of syringes from 0.5 to 100 mL, fully ENFit compliant, with tip cap as standard. Advanced design ensures more effective nutrition delivery than other products, due to materials used that reduce lipid adherence and tip geometry that ensures high energy fats are delivered first.

A range of patented accessories ensure that the ENFit standard can be fully adopted without compromising care or changing current protocols. These products are unique and underline the difference between enteral feeding products designed specifically for the neonate and those from other suppliers that are merely adapted from adult products and don’t cater for the important needs of the neonate.

The full NeoMed range offers an unrivalled solution for enteral and oral feeding in neonates and infants.

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