# Neonatal Sepsis

## Why in News?

*The Lancet Global Health journal recently published in a study that More than a third of newborns diagnosed with sepsis could die.*

- It is a blood infection that occurs in an infant ***younger than 90 days old.***
- **Symptoms** - Fever, Respiratory distress, Jaundice, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Abdominal distention, Seizures, Jitteriness, Reduced sucking, and Lethargy.
- **Causes** - Streptococcus agalactiae (GBS), Escherichia coli, Herpes simplex virus (HSV), Enterovirus infections, and Yeast.
- Viruses, fungi and parasites can also lead to the condition.
- Group B streptococcus (GBS) has been a major cause of neonatal sepsis.
- **Categories**
  - **Early-onset neonatal sepsis** - Develops ***within the first 72 hours*** of life.
  - **Late-onset neonatal sepsis** – It develops ***after 3 days*** of life.
- **High –risk group**
  - Have a low birth weight.
  - Have a low Apgar score (Standard method to determine if baby needs immediate medical care).
  - Are male.
  - Have a mother with an infection during pregnancy.
- **Treatment -** Sepsis in newborns is ***curable.*** Many newborns who develop sepsis recover completely and don't have any other issues.
- Treatments include Intravenous (IV) fluids, IV antibiotics, Antiviral medication, Heart and/or blood pressure medications, and Extra oxygen and other forms of respiratory support.
- **Prevalence -** Neonatal sepsis results in more than 5,50,000 deaths globally every year.

  *India accounts for nearly 1/4$^{th}$ of the global burden of infection-related deaths.*

- Sepsis remains a major hurdle to lowering neonatal mortality rates in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- ***Antibiotic resistance*** was a major challenge in managing sepsis.

**References**


1. The Hindu | Neonatal sepsis
2. Cleveland Clinic | Sepsis in Newborns



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