

- Room air or oxygen saturation $\geq 88\%$
- Respiratory rate < 60 breaths/min
- Blood pH ≥ 7.30

Box 8-4

Clinical Manifestations of Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Tachypnea (> 80 to 120 breaths/min) initially*

Dyspnea

Pronounced intercostal or substernal retractions (see [Fig. 8-21](#))

Fine inspiratory crackles

Audible expiratory grunt

Flaring of the external nares

Cyanosis or pallor

*Not all infants born with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) manifest these characteristics; very low birth weight (VLBW) and extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants may have respiratory failure and shock at birth because of physiologic immaturity.