

may be transmitted in breast milk.

Nursery procedures aimed at minimizing the risk of nosocomial infections include the practice of good hand-washing techniques, appropriate isolation precautions where indicated, and the adoption of recommended standards for spacing of infant beds. Strategies such as the early introduction of enteral feeding aimed at reducing the indwelling time of central venous lines have been shown to reduce the risk of nosocomial infection ([Toltzis and Walsh, 2010](#)).

Therapeutic Management

In addition to the institution of vigorous therapeutic measures, early recognition ([Box 8-6](#)) and diagnosis are essential to increase the infant's chance for survival and reduce the likelihood of permanent neurologic damage. Antibiotic therapy is initiated before laboratory results are available for confirmation and identification of the exact organism. Treatment consists of circulatory support, respiratory support, aggressive administration of antibiotics, and immunotherapy.

Box 8-6

Manifestations of Neonatal Sepsis

General Signs

Infant generally “not doing well”

Poor temperature control—hypothermia, hyperthermia (rare in neonates)

Circulatory System

Pallor, cyanosis, or mottling

Cool, clammy skin

Hypotension

Edema