

George's cardiac function will be protected by decreasing cardiac demands, improving respiratory function, and preventing fluid excess.

Infant will have adequate cardiac output as evidenced by:

- Heart rate within acceptable range (state specific range)
- Respiratory rate within acceptable range (state specific range)
- Skin warm to touch
- Strong and equal peripheral pulses
- BP normal for age
- Brisk capillary refill within 2 or 3 seconds
- Lack of distended neck veins
- Normal sinus rhythm
- Lack of edema
- Adequate urinary output (1 to 2 ml/kg/hr)
- Age-appropriate weight gain on standardized growth curve
- Successful feeding

### Case Study (Continued)

George's BP is increased and the pulses in his arms are bounding. You find weak femoral pulses and his extremities are cool to touch. George's breathing appears labored, and you note nasal flaring but no intercostal retractions at this time. His color is pale and slightly mottled.

### Assessment

What are the most important signs and symptoms of impaired breathing in this infant?

### Impaired Breathing Defining Characteristics