

Multiple pregnancy

Low body mass index ($<19.8 \text{ kg/m}^2$) ([Fanaroff, 2011](#))

Abruptio placentae or placenta previa

Incompetent cervix

Maternal hypertension

Premature rupture of membranes or chorioamnionitis

Polyhydramnios or oligohydramnios

Infection

Trauma

Fetal Factors

Chromosomal abnormalities

Congenital anomalies

Nonimmune hydrops

Erythroblastosis

Unknown Factors

The outlook for preterm infants is largely, but not entirely, related to the state of physiologic and anatomic immaturity of the various organs and systems at the time of birth. Infants at term have advanced to a state of maturity sufficient to allow a successful transition to the extrauterine environment. Preterm infants must make the same adjustments but with functional immaturity proportional to the stage of development reached at the time of birth. These adjustments, however, may be limited or even hindered by the external environment to which the preterm infant is exposed. Exposure to excessive stimuli, bacteria, and viruses make the environment less conducive for preterm infants to grow