

Case 1

Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS)

A 26 yrs. old pregnant female get birth to a female infant at 31 weeks gestational age weighing 1500 gm by a cesarean section performed for decreased fetal movement and fetal bradycardia. The pregnancy was uncomplicated. After birth the baby presented with rapid shallow breathing her respiratory rate (R.R.) was 70/min., nasal flaring, unusual breathing movement in the form of chest (sternal, intercostal and subcostal) retractions and grunting. The baby was diagnosed as a case of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS). This diagnosis was based on prematurity, signs and investigations which were done for the patient.

1. Describe the pathophysiology of respiratory distress in this case?
2. What is the surfactant and its source?
3. Mention the functions and factors affecting surfactant?
4. How to test for lung surfactant availability?
5. Prevention and treatment of respiratory distress syndrome?
6. List other causes of RDS?

