

**Diagnosis of Disorganized and Dysfunctional Suck Patterns
in the Neonate – Based Upon the NOMAS®**

DISORGANIZED

Definition: “The lack of rhythm of the total sucking activity.” Crook, 1979

Characteristics: Arrhythmic suck:

- Too much variability in the number of sucks/burst
- Transitional
- Inconsistent suck / swallow / breathe ratio

DYSFUNCTION

Definition: “The interruption of the successful sucking activity by abnormal movements of the tongue and jaw.” Palmer, 1983

Characteristics:

- Excessively wide excursions of the jaw
- Minimal excursions; clenching
- Flaccid tongue with absent tongue groove
- Retracted tongue with posterior humping

Updated 05/09

**NOMAS® (Neonatal Oral-Motor Assessment Scale)
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