



Respiratory vs Cardiac Distress in the Neonate – What to Look For

Presenter: Cassie Robertson, BSc, RRT

August 20, 3:00 PM Eastern

Session Abstract

Being called to assess a neonate in respiratory distress and presenting cyanotic can be anxiety provoking for even the seasoned neonatal respiratory therapist (RT). The goal of this presentation is to help every RT develop a certain set of tools so that they can differentiate between respiratory distress vs. cardiac distress in the neonate, and be able to make appropriate suggestions for care. This presentation will also review the differences for a neonate in transition, when to suspect and how to manage a cyanotic congenital heart defect, and when to suspect a neonate in shock.

Session Objectives

1. To establish a set of tools to help differ between cardiac and respiratory distress
2. To use those tools to establish a working diagnosis, and use case studies for practice
3. To educate about cardiac assessment skills on a transitioning neonate

Speaker Biography

Cassie grew up in a small farm town near Chilliwack BC, and started Respiratory Therapy school at TRU in Kamloops, when a friend told her about the program. She absolutely loved what she was learning and the opportunities that school gave her, like going to Peru to teach and working in a COPD clinic. In her clinical year, she fell in love with NICU and the little babies, and she hasn't left since graduating in 2016. She still works bedside, her main role now is clinical site coordinator for the TRU RT students" at BC Children's and Women's hospital.