

Gastroschisis Care Protocol



Please undertake the following life-saving steps when a baby with gastroschisis presents to you:

1. At delivery, practice delayed cord clamping (1-3 minutes) and **cut cord long** (8-10cm).
2. **Dry** the baby, place on a **radiant heater**, put nappy/cloth on and cover the baby in clean **plastic** up to the armpits (plastic bag, plastic apron, clingfilm or alternative plastic). Do not apply wet gauze over the bowel.
3. Resuscitation as per your local protocol. Insert an **intravenous cannula**. Give 20mls/kg normal saline fluid **bolus**. Commence maintenance fluids.
4. If available, insert a **nasogastric tube**, leave on free drainage into a glove.
5. If available, give **IV ampicillin, gentamycin and metronidazole**. Give vitamin K.
6. Keep the baby warm using **skin-to-skin** with the baby in the plastic on the mother or caregivers skin in a breastfeeding position, underneath their clothes. Baby can breastfeed for 5 minutes every 8 hours. Counsel the parents regarding gastroschisis.
7. Contact the Paediatric Surgery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit teams at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to **refer** via the WhatsApp Group or call.
8. **Transfer** to MNH. Aim to leave your hospital within an hour.

Every hour sooner that the baby gets to MNH increases chances of survival

During transfer stop maintenance fluids and keep the baby warm with skin-to-skin.