

SOP: SafeBoosC Treatment Guideline

Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes	Approved by
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Assessment of cerebral oxygen saturation

Regional cerebral tissue oxygen saturation (rStO₂) is a composite measure of tissue oxygen saturation across arterial, capillary, and venous beds and reflects a balance between cerebral oxygen delivery (CDO₂) and cerebral metabolic rate (CMRO₂). In preterm infants, the CMRO₂ is unlikely to vary much and a change in rStO₂ largely reflects changes in CDO₂. The factors, which influence CDO₂ are arterial oxygen saturation (SaO₂), hemoglobin concentration ([Hb]), and cerebral blood flow (CBF).

Establishment of monitoring of cerebral oxygenation

As soon as possible and within 6 hours of age

Period of monitoring of cerebral oxygenation

Until 72 hours after birth

Recommendation for clinical interventions

The thresholds for intervention depends on the oximeter. If StO₂ is predominantly below the hypoxic threshold over a 10-minute period or drops acutely and markedly under the threshold, the sensor should be inspected for any potential displacement, and possibly be repositioned. If this does not solve the problem, a decision regarding intervention (modification of cardio-respiratory support) should be made (identified in '•') as listed below and StO₂ reassessed 30 to 60 minutes after the intervention. Generally, only one intervention should be chosen at a time. All the interventions proposed here are commonly used in this patient group. The interventions listed below, are in a non-prioritized order.

Rationale/aim of interventions: A low rStO₂ reflects a low CDO₂. The interventions should be directed to increasing CBF, blood haemoglobin concentration, or SaO₂.

Assess cardiovascular status:

Blood pressure low in normal range, consider:

- Vasopressor-inotropes
- Fluid bolus (normal saline)
- Decrease mean airway pressure (MAP)

Poor systemic circulation, consider if:

Echocardiography shows low cardiac output and/or low SVC flow

- Inotropes

- Fluid bolus (normal saline)
- Decrease mean airway pressure (MAP)
- Reduce vasopressor

Echocardiography not available but has at least 2 of the following signs:

Lactate > 3.5 mmol/l

CRT > 3 seconds

Urine output < 1 ml/kg/hour

consider:

- Inotropes
- Fluid bolus (normal saline)
- Decrease mean airway pressure (MAP)
- Reduce vasopressor

Patent ductus arteriosus, consider:

- Medical treatment

Assess oxygen transport:

Hemoglobin low in the normal range, consider:

- Red blood cell transfusion

Assess respiratory status:

SaO₂ low in normal range, consider:

- Increase FiO₂ (ATTENTION: be careful not to exceed the local upper target threshold of SpO₂)
- Increase mean airway pressure (MAP)

PCO₂ below the normal range or low, even in normal range, consider:

- Decrease minute ventilation

Evidence

In the protocol, appendix B, the level of evidence and strength of recommendations for each intervention can be found.