

# **NEONATE- PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS**

**EDU-HE-5026(DEVELOPMENTAL  
PSYCHOLOGY)**

**UNIT-1**

**B.A 5<sup>TH</sup> SEM(Hons)**

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# What you will learn

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- Who is a neonate?
- Physical characteristics of neonate
- Physical appearance of neonate

# Neonate(Newborn child)

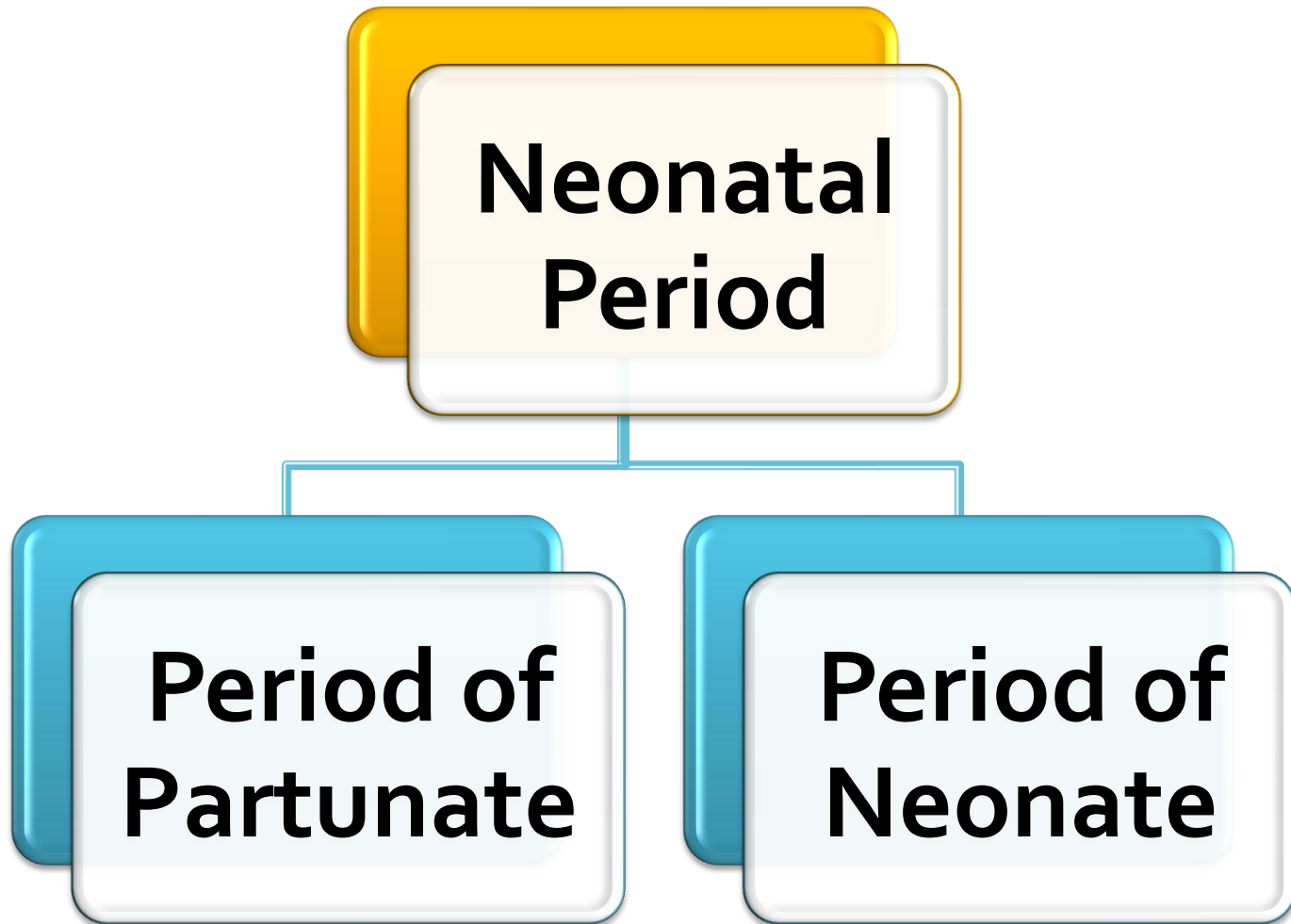
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- The period right after birth is called Neonatal period or the period of the Newborn.
- This period begins with birth and ends when the infant is approximately two weeks old(15 days).

# Neonate

- The term '**neonate**' is derived from the *Greek* word '**Neos**' meaning 'New' and the *latin* verb '**Nascur**' meaning 'Born'.
- According to Medical criteria the neonatal period begins with birth and ends when the navel heals

# Classification of Neonatal period



# PARTUNATE PERIOD

## (Birth till 15/30 mins after birth)

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- This period begins when the baby emerge from the mother's body and last until the umbilical cord has been cut.

**(Birth till 15/30 mins after birth)**



## Neonates Just after the Birth

# NEONATAL PERIOD

(from cutting of umbilical cord to end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week after birth)


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- Period of radical adjustment
- Period of transition from an internal to an external environment
- Period of plateau in development
- Hazardous period



# Physical characteristics of Neonate

## ○ Physical characteristics of Healthy neonates

- A healthy newborn usually has the following physical characteristics
  - ✓ Weight : the average weight of a normal full-term newborn infant is about 2.9 kg with a variation of 2.5 to 3.9 kg or more . The weight is very variable from country –to-country and in different socioeconomic status.
  - ✓ Length : at birth the average crown heel length of the term infant is 50 cm with the range of 48-53 cm . The length is a more reliable criterion of gestational age than the weight .
  - ✓ Head circumference : The head circumference is usually varies from 33 to cm , with the average of 35 cm
  - ✓ Chest circumference : the chest circumference is about 3 cm less than head circumference .
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# Physical characteristics of Neonate

## Physical Characteristics of Newborns

- Size
- Slightly over seven pounds
- 20 inches long
- Boys are bigger than girls
- Newborns loose weight but gain it back in 10 days
- Body Proportions
- Head is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the body size
- Chest is rounded
- Almost no neck
- Legs drawn up and short compared to the arms.

# Physical characteristics of Neonate

- When a baby is first born, the skin is a dark red to purple color. As the baby starts to breathe air, the color changes to red. This redness normally starts to fade in the first day. A baby's hands and feet may stay bluish in color for several days.
- Molding is the irregular shape of a baby's head from the birth process. Normal shape often returns by the end of the first week.

# Physical characteristics of Neonate

- There is a white, greasy, cheese-like substance on the skin of many babies at birth. It protects the baby's skin during pregnancy.
- Lanugo is soft, downy hair on a baby's body, especially on the shoulders, back, forehead, and cheeks. It's more noticeable in premature babies. It will slowly disappear.
- Head A newborn's head may be bruised, elongated and misshapen during the first few days from being pushed through the birth canal. The head will begin to look better within a few days. The newborn has almost no neck.

# Physical characteristics of Neonate

- Newborns usually keep their eyes closed most of the time. They may also be puffy and have a little yellow discharge for the first few days. The eyes are uncoordinated.
- Newborns spend most of their time sleeping even when you are trying to feed them. They also grunt, grimace, kick, and startle easily during sleep. All of this is normal.



**Thank you**