
Neonatal arrhythmias

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So far as we are aware, so-called primary peritonitis, from which we are excluding that caused by umbilical sepsis, is extremely rare in the neonatal period. Its etiology at any age is uncertain, although passage of bacteria through the bowel wall is one of several possibilities. The great majority of cases, then, arise as a result of intra-abdominal complication, in which case they are more the province of the surgeon, or secondary to hematogenous seeding. Meconium peritonitis is an aseptic peritonitis caused by spill of meconium in the abdominal cavity through one or several intestinal perforations which have taken place during intrauterine life or a few hours after ward. Meconium peritonitis may be detected as calcified nodules in the peritoneal cavity, inguinal canal, or scrotum. Three forms of meconium peritonitis are generally described: fibroadhesive, cystic and generalized. Some authors object to the term to describe the disorder that arises from the escape of bile into the peritoneal cavity.