

- **Gastric Lactobezoar in preterm neonate treated with Casein Hydrolyzed infant formula**

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ABSTRACT: 47 day old preterm baby girl born at 31 2/7 weeks post cesarean section developed apnea episodes and bradycardia post starting standard infant formula. Cereal was added to thicken the formula since the baby was also having reflux and increased vomiting and irritability. When there was no improvement but worsening apnea and bradycardia, an upper GI follow through was performed which demonstrated a large air infiltrated mass floating in the fundus of the stomach and intermittently causing gastric outlet obstruction. The cereal infant formula mixture was stopped and a predigested casein infant formula was started. On follow up abdominal US, there was evidence that the large lactobezoar had partially dissolved into large chunks.

This case is unique in that this is the first reported case where infant formula with predigested casein was utilized as part of the conservative management instead of bowel rest and IV hydration. This report discusses the presentation and the effectiveness of the treatment regimen.