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## Need urgent help with 3 day old newborn not eating?

We have a 3 day old newborn who doesn't seem to eat. Last night she didn't eat all night and won't sleep if we put her down in the bassinet. We've tried breastfeeding and bottle. Took her to the ER today and the doctor said that we need to keep trying and stimulate her so she doesn't fall asleep while we're feeding her. The thing is, whatever we do feed her, she spits back up and doesn't swallow. Also, we don't know if she has urinated since she was born and neither did the OB nurses because everytime we changed her diaper it was filled with the black tarry stuff. She isn't a premi, was born 1 week before due date. I'm afraid something may be wrong with her, but she isn't crying constantly as if she wants fed, nor is she really crying to signify that something else may be wrong. I would like to know if something was wrong and she wasn't urinating what could it be and how could we tell. Also, she is a little jaundice but not much. How can i get her to eat and keep it down?

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 19:54:44 )

 **Nathan S**

### Best Answer - Chosen by Asker

It sounds like the jaundice is making her sleepy. My daughter did this. She slept all night the day after I brought her home from the hospital and wouldn't nurse for more than 5 minutes at a time. I breastfed her. Wipe the baby down with a wet washcloth before you feed her to get her good and awake. Also, try stripping her down to her diaper. The fact that she is having bowel movements is a good thing. You need to make sure that you are burping her frequently. If you are nursing, try to keep her awake to eat for at least 15 minutes. If you have to break the latch and wake her up, then put her back to the breast. You need to contact a lactation consultant tomorrow to have her looked at while you are feeding her. Did she have a weight gain or loss at the hospital?

EDIT: I decided that I wanted to elaborate here.....Is mom's milk coming in? That could be causing her to spit up alot, but in general, newborns do tend to spit up alot because they are inefficient at it in their first days. If the ER doctor wasn't concerned, I would call your pediatrician tomorrow to have her looked at. No doctor would let you go home from the ER with a 3 day old baby if they were concerned. She may not want to sleep in the bassinet simply because she is adjusting to the world outside the womb and it is a very harsh place. As a remedy for jaundice, you need to make sure that Mom breastfeeds, breastfeeds, and breastfeeds some more. Breastmilk and colostrum will help break down the biliruben and help her pass it out of her system. Put her in sunlight through a window.....this will also help break down the biliruben. I had my daughter at the doc's when she was 3 days old also for sleepiness and not willing to nurse. They did a biliruben test on her, helped me get a good breastfeeding session in, and sent us home. We had to go back the next day to have her biliruben levels checked again.

You can always call and ask to speak to a nurse in the nursery, or call your pediatrician tonight if you are concerned, to see if she can be checked out in the nursery.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:00:50 )

### Asker's Rating: \*\*\*\*\*

good answer. I did change her diaper that night when she was home and it made her wake up enough that I could feed her. She is doing great, still a little jaundice, but that will go away. She eats anywhere from 2 to 4 ounces at a time. Yes, she is being nursed, but we are also bottle feeding.

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 **MomuttsM...**

### Other Answers (17)

It's not normal for her not to be eating. Take her to the hospital and insist on speaking to someone about it. You need to get her some help!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:00:51 )

 **One Armed Scissor**

Take her back to the ER and have them watch you nurse...they'll be able to tell if you are one of the 1% of women who's breastmilk actually can cause jaundice. The baby should have FULL pampers of urine by now in addition to the "black tarry stuff"....if she doesn't, she's dehydrated and you CAN NOT WAIT it out. She's brand new and needs to eat NOW!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 19:59:27 )

 **konshesg...**

Your instincts are telling you something is wrong - then there is something awry. Go back to the ER right now and don't leave until they check her. She could have a feeding issue, but it sounds as though she's too weak to suckle. Jaundiced? She needs to be evaluated. Don't take I don't know for an answer. Mothers instincts always prove correct somehow.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:14:07 )

 **new style american girlfriend**

Call your regular doctor soon. If they won't do anything, try another hospital. It could be something medically wrong that is not allowing her to swallow nor keep things down.

#### **Source(s):**

Been through special needs with a special son since birth.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:06:41 )

 **Kelli M**

I think that you should just either go back to the ER and get a second opinion or take her to a paediatrician! If she is not eating something needs to be done ASAP!!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:00:28 )

 **bec**

There are a few points here.

Won't sleep -- Most of new born baby doesn't stay awake very long, so this needs to be check up.

ER on the 3rd day after her birth -- which hospital did you check out? or, ask for a pediatrician from friends around you or from the hospital.

If she doesn't drink, no urinating for sure -- did she suck nipple or the bottle? If she did and couldn't get much, please poke the hole bigger or just tea spoon feed slowly.

The black tarry stuff -- this is from the birth, should be changing color soon or now after she drinking enough breast milk or formula.

One thing to remember, if you are doing breast feeding please eat good and drink lots of milk. Also, if she is not drinking, pump the milk out and save in the cooler. And, HYGIENE is VERY IMPORTANT in every step.

It's quite serious, please take her to a pediatrician asap.

Please keep me update! Wishing things go right for all of you!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:14:39 )

 **Q2**

 **isitright...**

OK did she eat at the hospital? and at 3 days old she is ding maybe 2oz that's all and yes sleep is the word for her. the

black tar is right for now. my darter is 5 weeks and the tar was there until she was about a week and and 21/2 week be for she went to more food. go to a diff er. or even go up to labor and deliv and talk to them

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:12:54 )

have you thought of talking to your DOCTOR?? WHY POST IT HERE?? THIS IS A \*NEWBORN\*!!! GO TO THE DOCTOR!!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 19:58:33 )

 **Just Joined the US Army**

When i had my daughter she had a hard time eating also. My milk had not come in until maybe 4 or 5 days after i had my daughter. I used a lactation consultant from the hospital i delivered at and it really helped out a lot. I used a nipple shield so she could latch on really well and put her on about every hour for ten minutes on each breast. To get my milk flowing. It can be hard work to establish good feeding. Also I supplemented 1 oz of formula at each feeding. I personally never had a problem going from bottle to breast. You shouldn't really worry about the whole peeing thing. The first few days your still both learning how to breastfeed or bottle feed. Which ever your doing. So it can be frustrating for the both of you. Just check her diapers often, peek inside, feel whatever. Plus its hard to tell when your newborn pees since they aren't eating a lot their pee is clear. I don't think this is anything to freak out over. Having a newborn is scary in the beginning. Goodluck and congrats

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:52:05 )

 **MissSava...**

Momutts is right...very much so.

Please contact a lactation consultant right away and check with the doctor on the feeding.

It's best NOT to attempt bottle feeding since mommy's milk is not well established and you don't want baby to develop a nipple preference. In your case, it is probably to get baby to eat something- ANYTHING. Keep trying to nurse. Babies are generally not hungry in the first 3 days...so that could also be a cause- but she should be nursing more frequently now. She should also have some wet diapers.

Honestly, were it my baby, I'd take her to the ER and have her checked. If it IS the jaundice fine. If not make sure it's not something else. Little ones get dehydrated quickly- we learned that from our own experience with our son.

Good luck to you! I am adding a star to get some help for you. Please let us know how you are and how baby is...email if you can. I'll be thinking of you.

God Bless and congrats on your new little person!

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:05:10 )

 **NY Attit...**

Jaundice makes for a sleepy baby. Wake her to eat every two hours, try to keep her sucking by rubbing her back, ears, ticking her toes, and so on. It's normal for a baby to spit up after eating, it usually means she's getting plenty. As long as you allow her to nurse whenever she wants and as long as she wants, you're on the right track.

If you are serious about breastfeeding, I'd put the bottle on the shelf for now. Concentrate on making sure you have a good latch and can hear her swallowing. Your milk probably is just barely coming in, it might not even be arriving yet. DON'T WORRY, some mothers take 7 days to come in. Until mom's milk comes in, babies are supposed to drink just the colostrum, it's plenty for babies of her age (remember, their tummies are tiny, smaller than a walnut.) Don't supplement thinking you need to, colostrum is nature's perfect food until your mature milk arrives.

Instead of a doctor, or the ER, I'd go visit a lactation consultant ASAP. If you can find a "IBCLC" consultant even better (mine was at the hospital where I delivered.) She can evaluate your latch and give you some great ideas on how to keep baby nursing. It will probably alleviate some of your concerns. Doctors know next to nothing about breastfeeding, they might even tell you to supplement to help with the jaundice (that's outdated advice and should be ignored, it screwed up my milk supply when a doctor told me that, but that's a longer story.)

One hint my lactation consultant gave me was to put a piece of tissue in her diaper. Modern diapers are so absorbent it's hard to tell if baby has peed. If you put in a tissue, you can get it out at the next diaper change or two and if it's wet, you'll know. You can also weigh an empty diaper and a used diaper to see if there is any gain.

The best thing you can do is nurse her every 2-3 hours around the clock (wake her to nurse if you have to) and go visit a lactation consultant.

Please do not stress, although this is scary, what you're describing can be pretty normal and there are steps you can do to solve the problems. Take a deep breath and get to the lactation consultants in the morning.

#### Source(s):

I've been there twice.

Momutts, NY\_Attitude, sydshowg, and Nick B are all correct.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 22:52:44 )

I'm surprised the doctor let you out of the hospital before they could check to make sure that everything was ok.

The jaundice could be making her a bit sleepier than she should be. Try tickling her feet when you feed her. Keep on with the breastfeeding. Make sure she is latching on properly and that you have some colostrum or milk rubbed on your nipple so that she knows it is there. Try feeding her more often. If you have lots of milk then the letdown could be making her choke and spit some up. Try getting the milk to come in first before putting her on the breast. If she is asleep, change her nappy to rouse her, let her clothes stay open for a bit to cool her down and wake her up a bit more then try to feed her.

If you are really worried then take her to a doctor or get the home nurse to come and watch while you try to feed her so she can see if there are any problems.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:05:46 )



**Kim B**

You should definitely be noticing many wet diapers (at least 6-8 or so a day) at day 3, so even if meconium is still coming out you won't have that many diapers that have that, there are always more with urine than with poop. I agree with the person who posted that you should go to the ER and have them watch you breastfeed - they also can look for signs of dehydration. Many hospitals also have lactation consultants on staff. If there is any doubt in your mind, treat this as an emergency - truly being dehydrated can kill a baby.

On the flip side, I was a very nervous mom the first few days and worried my baby was not getting enough breastmilk, and she was totally fine. Her pediatrician weighed her after 5 days and she was already starting to gain back some of the initial weight that all babies lose after being born. But I did get professional help when I was concerned, and I would never leave it to chance - not then and not with another baby down the road.

Also, my baby had reflux initially and I couldn't believe she was keeping anything in - but the requisite number of wet diapers and weight gain let us know everything was okay! But if that is not the case for you, there are things a doctor can give you and advise you to do to help her keep her food down better. I won't post them here, because I think that stuff is best coming from your doc!

Hope all is well...

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:12:35 )



**jellibel...**

Hi

First of all if you are at all worried, you need to take her to the Dr's. Go to several if you can't get the answers you want



**sydshowg...**

In regards to spitting up, newborn babies have tiny stomachs, so they need to feed often (sometimes every 2 hours). If they take in too much at once, it will come back out (they are still learning how much to take). Also little babies digestive systems aren't in full working order yet, so expect vomit for a while yet!

About the urine, again such a small amount is going in which means that a small amount is coming out. With the diapers that we have today, it can be very hard to tell if they are at all wet. Maybe try cloth diapers for the day, it's easy to spot a wet one.

The first few day's of a newborn babies life are spent sleeping, it's hard work being born and they need to recover. Try waking your baby every 4 hours to feed. Unwrap her, even undress her to keep her awake during the feeds. Burp her often as this also helps to wake them up.

All in all, try not to worry. I'm sure your beautiful little girl is okay.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:18:15 )

Kids this age who don't eat are usually sick, although often with a low grade viral illness. This is not due to teething and probably he has come down with the stomach virus. Try some tylenol to make him comfortable, encourage fluids, and if he seems to be sicker or getting dehydrated, have him see his doctor just to be sure it is nothing more serious.

If your baby is falling asleep after 10 minutes of nursing, than her tummy is probably full and content. If you think she needs to nurse more, wake her up.....wash her face with a washcloth, that should help.

Do not force feed your baby.

Try mixing the formula and breast milk half and half she will still get the taste of the breast milk and the formula will make your wife's breast milk go alot further.

Baby should be eating appx. 1.5 to 3 oz per feed an should be wetting at least 6 diapers a day!

If not please go back to the ER! Baby may have a respiratory infection or be very dehydrated!  
Good Luck! It will get better soon!

#### Source(s):

<http://www.lli.org/resources/assistance...>

<http://www.netwellness.org/question.cfm/...>

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:05:44 )

 **kasmira2...**

Geeze, I wouldn't listen to half of the people on here. If your baby is only 3 days old and your milk hasn't come in yet, then all your baby is getting is colostrum. And only about 5 milliliters if that. DO NOT start the formula yet. That should be your absolute last resort. It is lazy and not the best alternative for you or the baby. Breastfeeding will not be easy at first. It will take weeks to get used to. Your baby already knows how to do it, it's you who has to perfect it. You will have to wake your baby up to eat over the first few days. That is perfectly normal. And by all means, if you are unsure, then go to the hospital or pediatrician and have your baby looked at. This is a tiny little person that is completely dependent on you and there is no shame in being over protective. Good luck. I would say to be calm about it but I know from personal experience that is not necessary. Follow your instinct and everything will be ok.

1 year ago ( 2008-03-02 20:40:48 )

 **Nick B**