# CRYING & FUSSY INFANTS

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 Crying and fussiness increases in the early weeks of life.

It peaks around 6 to 8 weeks old and declines by

3 to 4 months old.

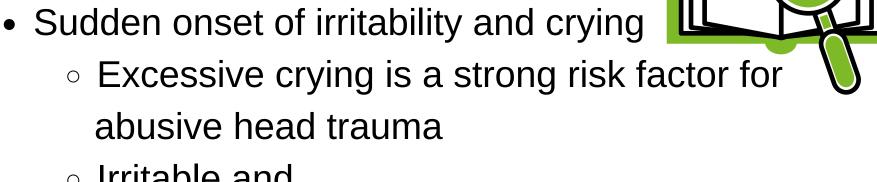
It's usually worse in the late afternoon and evening.

It may last several hours and the infant may draw up their legs as if in

pain, but this DOES NOT MEAN THEY ARE ACTUALLY IN PAIN.

# DENTIFY





CONSOLABLE - vs - INCONSOLABLE

## An infant is inconsolable when soothing

techniques agitate the patient more, which is concerning for sepsis, pain, meningitis, and NAT. Remember "IT CRIES"

I ntussusception

rauma/Tourniquet/Tetanus vaccine/Toxins

I nfection (UTI, sepsis, meningitis, otitis media)

(SDH, NAT, rib fractures, hair/synthetic material tourniquet of digits, DTap) ardiac (SVT, congenital)

Reaction to meds, reflux, rectal/anal fissures

yes/Electrolytes (Corneal abrasion, corneal FB,

**S** trangulation, inguinal hernia, testicular/ovarian

torsion, surgical process

infantile glaucoma, hyponatremia)

## INTERVENE

## Differentiate pathologic

vs non-pathologic

and examination

Obtain detailed history

- causes of crying Non-pathologic causes:
- hot, cold, tired, hungry, uncomfortable, soiled diaper Consider reflux, milk
- protein allergy, lactose overload, malabsorption (non-pathologic) Work up pathologic causes as necessary
- reassurance and educate the parent(s)

If non-pathologic, give

### which are ineffective in reducing crying

Prescribe anti-reflux

DO NOT

meds or simethicone,

- Prescribe anticholinergics, which have a risk of serious adverse events such as apneas and seizures
  - Prescribe colic mixtures (gripe water), which have no proven benefit Use probiotics Change formula; it's not

helpful unless there is

proven cow milk allergy

- SITO

Non-pathologic

Pathologic

Based on clinical status

Offer reassurance and

discharge home

- Crying and fussing are physiologic behavior in infants. With typical history and normal examination, no investigations are required.

Parental education and close follow-up are vital.

- Excessive crying is associated with higher rates of parental post-natal depression.
- At 6 to 8 weeks old, a baby cries 2 to 3 hours in a 24hour period on average.
- "Colic" is an outdated term used to describe excessive crying.

 Parents are often confused, distressed, exhausted, and have possibly received conflicting advice.