Safe kids @ Healthy kids @ Happy kids

Each Baby is Unique

Still, you can expect some common newborn issues.

- Your baby's face and head may not look – so perfect. He may have a misshapen head, a few small bruises or swollen eyes. This is a result of your baby passing through the birth canal. He will look better soon.
- Notice the soft spot on top of your baby's head. It is called a fontanel. A thick membrane covers these separated skull bones. It is OK to *gently* touch this area. These bones close between 9 18 months.
- Some babies have lots of hair.
 Others have no hair. It is all normal. Most newborn hair falls out as baby grows new hair.
- Your baby may have a
 yellow discharge from his
 eyes. Most babies receive
 antibiotic drops to their
 eyes after birth. This may
 cause a little irritation. The
 discharge will disappear after
 a day or two.
- Does your baby sneeze often? After birth, mucous

- fills her tiny nose. Sneezing helps her clear her nose. It is normal not always a sign of a cold. If she develops a thick, yellow mucous, call her doctor for advice.
- Your baby's ears bend easily.
 If his ear looks folded, do not worry. In time, it should look more normal and feel firmer.
- You might see a small blister on your baby's lips. It is from sucking her fingers in the womb. The blister will eventually go away.
- Newborn babies often develop rashes. Mom's hormones can cause small white pimples on the face. You may also notice a red rash with yellow-white centers – like flea bites. Both rashes go away without treatment.
- It is normal for the skin on baby's hands and feet to flake and peel. This flaking goes away in 1 – 2 weeks. You do not need to pull or scrub the peeling skin.

• Your baby may have swollen genitals and breasts for a few days after birth. Girls may also have a slightly bloody vaginal discharge. Mom's hormones are the cause. It will not last long.

If you have any questions about your newborn, call your doctor's office.







Brought to you by Parent Help Line and St. John's Children's Hospital



