Passive cooling

Baby meets therapeutic hypothermia criteria
[Refer to Checklist/Flow chart: Criteria for therapeutic hypothermia]

Commence passive cooling

- Nurse baby, wearing only a nappy, on an open care system with radiant warmer turned off
- Start continuous core (rectal) temperature monitoring and record every 30 minutes
  - If this is not available: measure and document the axilla temperature every 20 minutes

Assess baby’s temperature
- Aim to achieve therapeutic range within 2 hours of commencing cooling

Temperature < 33 °C
- Rewarm at 0.5 °C/hour until at 33–34 °C
- Put hat on baby
- Turn open care system onto lowest setting and adjust accordingly

Target temperature 33–34 °C
- Maintain temperature within this range
  - May need to:
    - Put hat on baby
    - Turn open care system onto lowest setting and adjust accordingly

Temperature > 34 °C
- If the target temperature is not achieved after 2 hours, or the baby’s temperature is not dropping by at least 0.5 °C each 30 minutes towards target temperature, further consultation with a neonatologist is required
  - Active cooling may be indicated

Document baby’s rectal temperature every 30 minutes or axilla temperature every 20 minutes

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