**VI. Infectious Disease**

Neonates with HIE often are treated with antibiotics. Hypothermia has been shown to decrease PNM activity and therefore may increase the risk of infection.

1. **Should neonates be empirically treated with antibiotics if they have HIE?**
2. If the baby had a sentential event and no other risks factors, the clinician may consider not starting antibiotics and monitoring clinically.
3. If the baby did not have a sentential event and has risk factors for infection, the clinician may consider a sepsis screening with a CBC with differential, CRP and blood culture. Antibiotics may be started and stopped after 48 hours depending on the clinical course, lab and blood culture results.
4. If the baby did not have a sentential event and has no risk factors for infection, the clinician may consider clinical observation or a sepsis screening with CBC with differential and CRP. Antibiotics may be started if the clinician has concerns for sepsis (hypotension, poor perfusion, respiratory distress) or the screening labs are abnormal.