

DIFFERENTIATING FEED INTOLERANCE FROM EARLY NEC

Feature	Immature Feed Intolerance	Early NEC Concern
Systemic signs	Usually absent	Often present
Aspirate colour	Pale/yellow; small bile amounts possible	Bilious/bloody, worsening trend
Abdominal signs	Mild distension	Discolouration, tenderness, worsening distension
Stool changes	Usually normal	Bloody / sudden diarrhoea
Trend over time	Stable or improving	Rapid deterioration