

# MODIFIED BELL'S TABLE

Bell's stage	Classification	Clinical signs	Radiologic signs	Treatment options
I	Suspected NEC	Intestinal stasis Bloody stools Apnoea Lethargy Abdominal Distension	Dilated loops May be normal	Gut rest (NBM) NG drainage Routine FBC/UE/CRP AXR Biomarkers (e.g. calprotectin) IV antibiotics
II	Proven NEC	Stage I plus... Abdominal tenderness Metabolic acidosis Thrombocytopenia	Pneumatosis intestinalis Portal venous gas	IV fluids TPN Fluid restriction IV antibiotics Respiratory support Cardiovascular support
III	Advanced NEC	Stage II plus... Hypotension DIC Neutropaenia Severe acidosis	As in stage II with pneumoperitoneum	Surgery: Drain Laparotomy Bowel resection Redirect care Relook laparotomy