

Seriously ill child

A 4 month old child is brought into your department. He has been taking decreased feeds for the past 48 hrs and now his Mum tells you he has stopped responding to her and is not feeding at all. His breathing is “rattly”. He is maintaining his own airway. In your clinical assessment (eg without monitoring)

Give 4 measures of the effort of breathing (2 marks)

*Resp rate, recession, Grunting, accessory muscle use, flaring of alae nasae*

Give 2 measures of the efficacy of breathing (1 marks)

*Heart rate, skin colour, mental status*

Give two measures of assessing circulatory status in this child (with normal values where appropriate) (2 marks)

Cap refill <2 s  
HR 110-160

The child has a small, dry cough and you can hear fine crepitations in all lung fields. The child is clinically dehydrated.

What is the likely diagnosis, with causative organism (2 marks)

*Bronchiolitis, RSV*

Give three management steps you will take in the ED (3 marks)

*Oxygen  
IV fluids  
admission*