

### Improvised Warm Rooms for Newborn Care

Arguably the greatest single advance in neonatal care came with the discovery that premature babies did better if kept warm. There is no single method to keep babies warm that can be appropriate for different parts of the world, especially if cost is taken into consideration. Our unit has been using graded warm rooms for better thermal control of the high-risk newborns using electrical room heaters(1). There is some inconvenience to the staff working in the unit but then in tropics one is frequently exposed to such an environment. Since we perform fewer investigations and procedures the time spent in these rooms at a stretch is quite short(2).

We have developed a simple and inexpensive method to regulate the temperature in a desired range and also maintain the functioning of the system during power failure.

A second hand car radiator with a compartment for a heating element at the bottom is used for this purpose. Water in the radiator dissipates heat with the help of a small fan fitted behind the radiator.

The temperature of the room is controlled by using digital indicator and temperature controller (DITC). When the temperature drops below the set point, the fan starts moving and when the temperature exceeds the set point, the exhaust fan is switched on.

In case of power failure, the fan can work on the battery and pre-warmed water can be poured in the radiator.

The cost works out to be Rs. 7800/- for a room that accommodates four babies. The system can be operated without DITC also. In that case, the system is switched on and off manually and a wall thermometer can be a guide in this regard. The cost then comes down to Rs. 800/- only.

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#### REFERENCES

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2. Daga SR, Daga AS. Reduction in neonatal mortality with simple interventions. *J Trop Pediatr* 1989, 35: 191-196.

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### Red Man Syndrome

Red man syndrome is an adverse reaction described with the use of vancomycin(1) and rifampicin(2,3). Red Man Syndrome due to rifampicin is a dose related non-fatal condition characterized by red orange discoloration of skin, mucus membrane, body secretion like tear and saliva, faeces and urine. Staining of contact lens