Beneficial microbial colonization during infancy can lay the foundation for a lifetime of good health.²

**Infancy Is a Critical Window for Microbiome Development**

**Early Microbial Colonization Is Influenced by:**³
- Delivery method
- Type of feeding
- Environmental factors
- Antibiotic use

**The Microbiome Shapes Health Outcomes**

Favorable microbial colonization plays a critical role in the development and interaction of key health systems:⁴

![Growth of Microbiome Research](image)

> 30,000 scientific articles have been published on the microbiome, with more than half published in recent years.¹

¹ Scientific Articles

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**DYSBIOSIS**: The abnormal colonization or the imbalance of microbes.\(^5\)

**NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS (NEC)**
is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among preterm infants worldwide.\(^7\)

**PRETERM INFANTS ARE AT ELEVATED RISK FOR DYSBIOSIS.**

Preterm infants face challenges that can adversely impact the development of a diverse and healthy microbiome.

- Gut immaturity
- Use of nonhuman milk feeding products
- Use of antibiotics and other medications
- Delayed enteral feeding
- Hygiene practices used in the NICU

Gut dysbiosis in infants is likely to increase risk of infections and inflammatory processes.

**CLINICAL STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE A MORE FAVORABLE MICROBIOME IN THE PRETERM INFANT, INCLUDE:**

- Use of human milk
- Use of probiotics
- Prudent use of antibiotics\(^8,9\)

**CONSIDER THE RISK FACTORS FOR DYSBIOSIS IN DAILY CARE PLANNING OF YOUR NICU PATIENTS.**

**NICU Daily Rounds**
- Neurological
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Nutrition

To learn more about the neonatal microbiome, visit: [anhi.org/resources/knowledge-hub](http://anhi.org/resources/knowledge-hub)