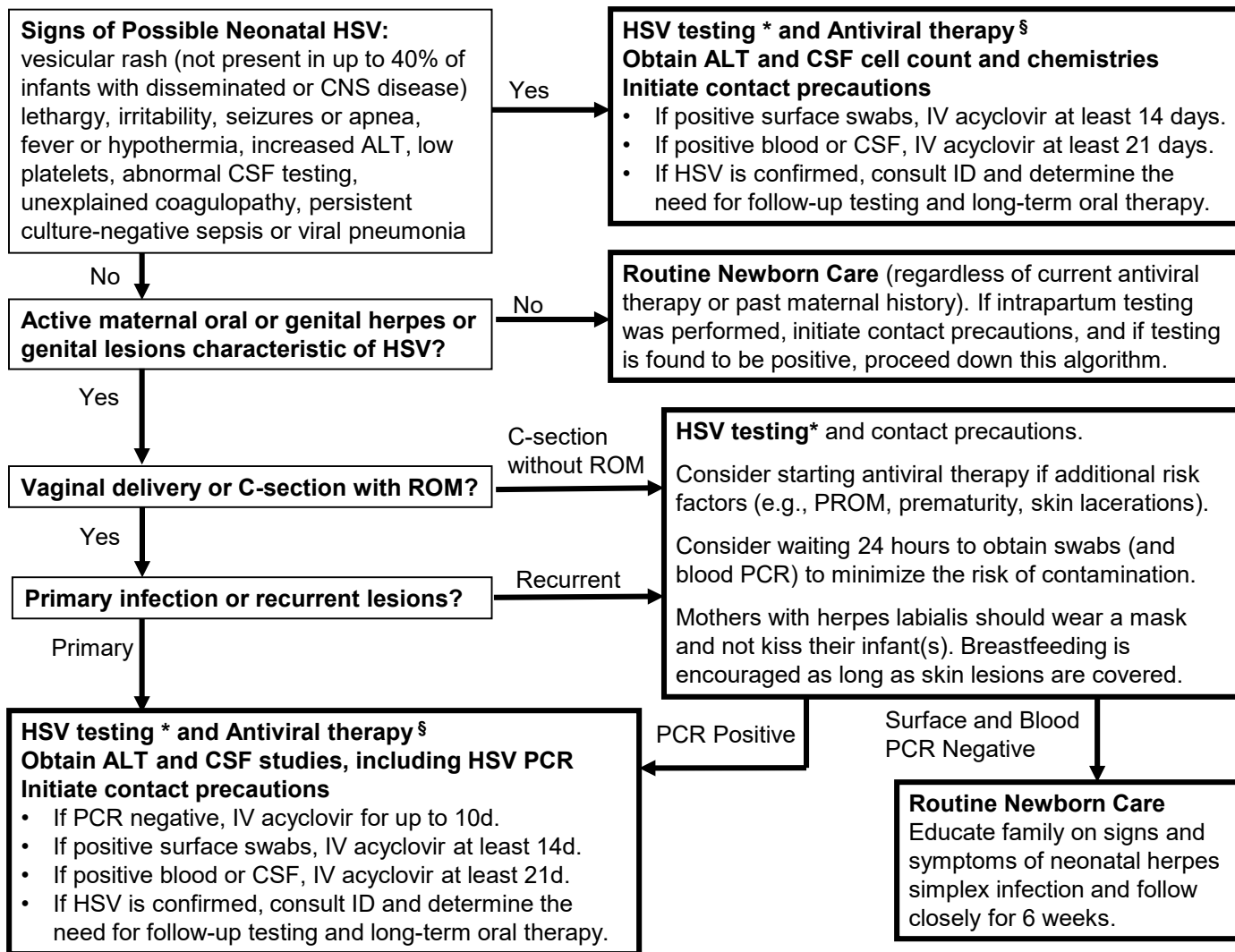


Evaluation and Management of Possible Neonatal Herpes Simplex Infection (within 4 to 6 weeks of birth)

Key Points:

- Intrauterine infection is rare, but possible.
- Infants born to mothers with active primary HSV infection are at the highest risk of infection.
- Cesarean delivery without preceding rupture of membranes significantly reduces the risk of neonatal HSV.
- Maternal therapy (acyclovir or valacyclovir starting at 36 weeks gestation) reduces viral shedding but does not eliminate the risk of neonatal HSV infection.
- In most cases of neonatal HSV infection, there is no known history of maternal genital HSV.



Created 6/30/2022 by R Roghair MD

Ref (1) 2021. "Herpes Simplex", Red Book: 2021–2024 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics, David W. Kimberlin, MD, FAAP, Elizabeth D. Barnett, MD, FAAP, Ruth Lynfield, MD, FAAP, Mark H. Sawyer, MD, FAAP. (2) Demmler-Harrison GJ. Neonatal herpes simplex virus infection: management and prevention. In: UpToDate, Arnsby C (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA. (Accessed 06/28/2022).