

Inclusion Criteria

- ❑ Gender: male or female
- ❑ Gestation: <32 weeks
- ❑ Illness: \geq Stage II NEC (definite diagnosis)
- ❑ Informed parental consent

Exclusion Criteria

- ❑ Failure to obtain informed parental consent
- ❑ Presence of major congenital malformation/s
- ❑ Presence of chromosomal aberration/s

Treatment details

After enrolment the neonate will be allocated to receive an IV infusion of either pentoxifylline or an equal volume of normal saline (placebo) at 5mg/kg/hour for 12 hours a day (60mg/kg/day) for 2 consecutive days.

The infusion duration would then be reduced to 6 hours a day (30mg/kg/day) for the next 4 consecutive days.

The total duration of treatment will be 6 days or shorter in case of stoppage due to any significant adverse drug reaction/s.

After enrolment the trial drug infusion should be commenced as soon as possible, preferably within 6 hrs after diagnosis of definite NEC.