

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS): Facts Parents Should Know

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome(SIDS) or "crib death" is defined as the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant which remains unexplained after a complete case study and postmortem examination is completed.

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT SIDS

SIDS is a definite medical entity and is the major cause of death in infants during he first year of life.

Approximately 6,000 to 7,000 SIDS deaths occur annually in the United States.

Statistically, SIDS deaths occur in 2 per 1,000 live births.

The peak incidence is between two and four months of age.

SIDS occurs in all socio-economic levels.

SIDS victims appear to be healthy prior to death.

At this time SIDS cannot be predicted or prevented, even by a physician.

There appears to be no suffering; death occurs very rapidly, usually during periods of sleep.

WHAT SIDS IS NOT

SIDS is not caused by external suffocation.

SIDS is not caused by the type of feeding method used.

SIDS is not caused by immunizations

SIDS is not caused by child abuse or neglect.

SIDS is not caused by over-heating.

SIDS is not caused by vomiting or choking.

SIDS is not contagious, it is not an infectious disease process.

SIDS does not cause pain or suffering to the infant.