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Neonatal sepsis is the single most important cause of neonatal deaths in the community, accounting for over half of them. If diagnosed early and treated aggressively with antibiotics and good supportive care, it is possible to save most cases of neonatal sepsis. Slide NS-3 Etiology. Most cases of neonatal sepsis in the community are caused by Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus. In hospitals, Klebsiella pneumoniae is also a common organism. Slide NS-4 Early vs. late sepsis. Neonatal sepsis can be classified into two sub-types depending upon whether the onset of symptoms is before 72 hou