

Case Type

Infant Formula (NEC)



General Background

Research has shown that baby formulas made from cow's milk significantly increase the risk for Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) in infants born prematurely or with low birth weight. NEC can cause a bacterial invasion that results in dead (necrotized) tissue and holes in the intestine. The bacteria can leak into the abdomen, potentially causing serious infections, developmental delays, cerebral palsy, neurological damage, and even death.

The most common brands of infant formula are Similac and Enfamil. It is estimated that both products currently represent 80% of the market share for premature baby formulas. For decades, these manufacturers have aggressively marketed their products despite more than 30 years of research suggesting that cow's-based formulas might be causing NEC in premature babies.

Alternatives to these dangerous formulas have been available for a long time. Unfortunately, many doctors, hospitals, and parents remain unaware of the health risks because manufacturers have neglected to adequately warn parents of the dangers. As a result, premature babies continue to get fed Enfamil and Similac at hospitals every day, putting them at risk for serious illnesses and even death.

Criteria

- Baby must have been born prematurely (before 37 weeks of pregnancy)
- Baby must have been fed Enfamil or Similac infant formula or fortifiers
- Baby must have been born within the last 18 years
- Baby must have been diagnosed with one of the following:
 - ▶ Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)
 - ▶ Short Bowel Syndrome (SBS)
 - ▶ A gastrointestinal illness requiring surgery
- Client must not be represented by an attorney