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## Neurodevelopmental Considerations in Surgical Necrotizing Enterocolitis

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### Introduction:

With very high mortality rates associated with surgical necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), it is understandable that longer term neurodevelopmental outcome assessment has not been the primary focus of pediatric surgeons.<sup>1</sup> However, survival without impairment is the primary goal of both providers and parents of neonates with severe illness, and thus long term neurodevelopmental outcomes have increasingly become a focus of NEC research.

The primary goals of surgical treatment for advanced NEC are the following: reducing systemic sepsis and subsequent risks of multi-system organ failure and death by removing gangrenous or frankly necrotic bowel (or defunctionalizing it);

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