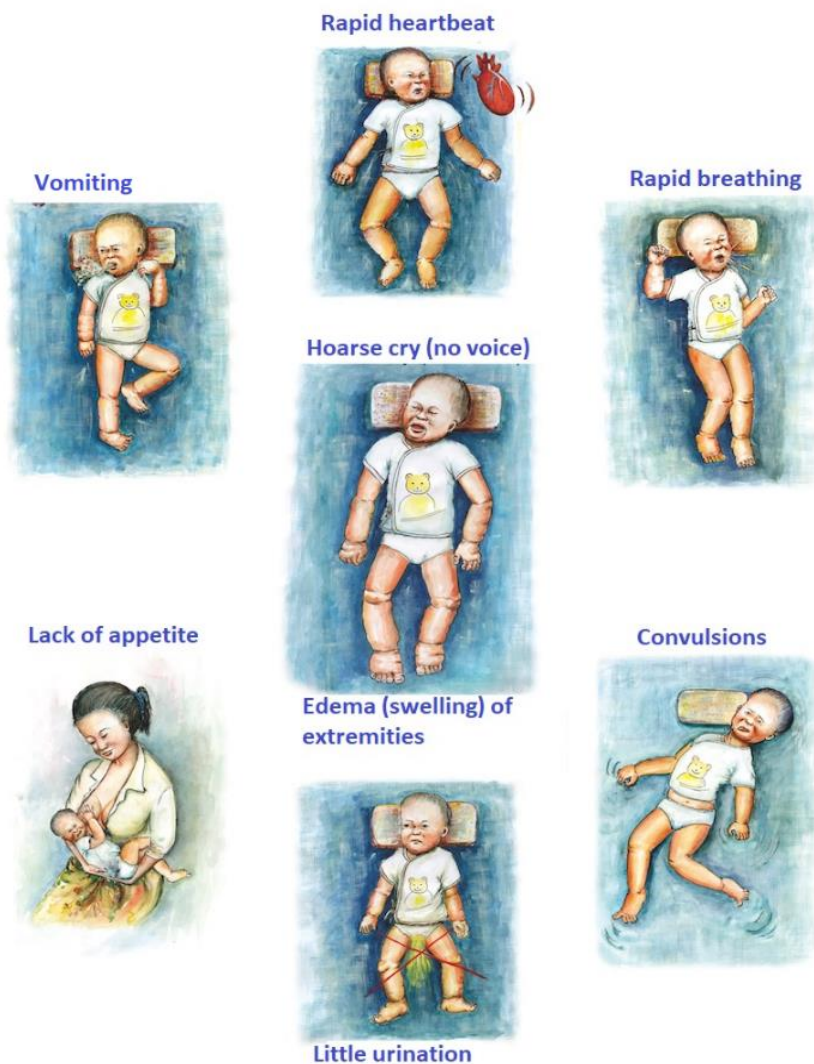


# Infantile beriberi: clinical symptoms and case studies

## Common symptoms of infantile beriberi



## Case studies of mother and infant thiamine deficiency, from a village survey conducted in Laos (adapted from Barennes et al, 2015)\*:

### Case study 1:

**Mother:** 28 years old, Hmong ethnic group, farmer, illiterate, 7 children, 5 deaths.

**Post partum:** strict food avoidance after delivery: she ate only polished rice, and salt during one month.

**Symptoms:** edema of legs and arms; paresthesias, dyspnea.

**Infant:** In the age of 1 month and in good health, he died suddenly after a day with silent screams, cyanosis of the body, and inability to breastfeed. The child was anuric, no liquid stools, no fever, no cough”.

### Case study 2:

**Mother:** 25 years old, Khmu ethnic group, farmer, primary school, 2 living children and one child deceased at one month of probable meningitis.

**Post partum:** food avoidance after delivery: she ate white rice, chicken, rarely vegetable, fish, birds, during 30 days

No clinical symptoms.

**Infant:** 2 months old. Presence of restlessness, refusal to suck, hoarseness, aphonia, and cyanosis. Symptoms appeared suddenly and severely.

**Physical examination:** dyspnea, cyanosis, tachycardia and hepatomegaly.

**Treatment:** The infant was treated by intramuscular injection of thiamine; thiamine tablets given to the mother.

**Evolution:** after 1 hour the child was able to suckle and no more cry”.