Abstract 276 Table 1

Deaths from infection % (infectious/ total deaths)	1988–1994	1995–2001	2002–2008
Neonatal (<29 days)	11% (139/1242)	13% (116/869)	15% (106/685)
Neonatal (<29 days)	16% (121/780)	17% (75/431)	19% (68/359)
Total infant deaths (0–364 days)	13% (260/2022)	15% (191/1300)	17% (174/1044)
Proportion of infectious deaths <28w gestation	18%	15% (191/1300)	44%

Deaths from GBS fell, and a fall in meningococcal (MEN) infections follows universal immunisation (1999). Infections from staphylococcus aureus (SA) were unchanged.

Abstract 276 Figure 1

Conclusions Despite better care and immunisations, the proportion of infant mortality from infections has increased. Term infants have benefited from changes in management but preterm infants have not, and deserve urgent prioritisation.

277 DIAGNOSING *KINGELLA KINGAE* OSTEOARTICULAR INFECTIONS IN YOUNG CHILDREN VIA SPECIFIC OROPHARYNGEAL SWAB PCR

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Background Diagnosing osteoarticular infections (OAI) caused by the increasingly recognized pathogen, *K. Kingae*, in young children remains challenging. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether specific oropharyngeal swab PCR could predict *K. Kingae* OAI in this population.

Methods A total of 123 children aged 6 to 48 months, presenting atraumatic osteoarticular complaints were prospectively enrolled. All were clinically evaluated, underwent hematologic and radiological investigations. Blood and oropharyngeal swab samples were tested with a *K. kingae* specific PCR assay. OAI was defined as the presence of pathogenic bacteria in bone, joint or blood samples, or magnetic resonance imaging consistent with infection despite negative microbiology. Positive culture or PCR for *K. kingae* in blood, bone or synovial fluid confirmed OAI due to this pathogen.

Results Forty children met the OAI case definition; 30 had *K. kingae* OAI, one had OAI due to another organism, and 9 had no

microbiologic diagnosis. All 30 oropharyngeal swabs from the patients with *K. kingae* OAI, and 8 swabs from the 84 patients without OAI or with OAI caused by another organism, were positive. The sensitivity and specificity of oropharyngeal swab PCR for *K. kingae* OAI were 100% and 90.5%, respectively; positive and negative predictive values were 78.9%, and 100%, respectively.

Conclusions Detection of *K. kingae* DNA in oropharyngeal swabs from children presenting clinical findings of OAI is highly predictive for *K. kingae* OAI. This test represents thus a valuable diagnostic tool, which could improve the recognition of OAI in young children.

278 INTERLEUKIN AND NEUROTROPHIC FACTOR PLASMA EXPRESSION ARE RELATED TO DISEASE SEVERITY IN CHILDREN WITH INFLUENZA A (H1N1) VIRUS INFECTION

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Background and Aims In the last years the world has been facing a new pandemic caused by a H1N1 influenza virus, showing particular virulence in children. Cytokines and neurotrophic factors seem to play an important role in severity and progression of this infection. In our study we evaluate cytokine (IL-1b and IL-6) and neurotrophic factor [Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), and Glial Derived Neurotrophic Factor (GDNF)] expression and their association with clinical-laboratory findings and outcome of children with H1N1 influenza virus infection.

Methods We performed a prospective observational clinical study on 15 children with H1N1 influenza virus infection and 15 controls with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI). Cytokines and neurotrophic factor plasma levels were measured using an immunoenzymatic assay.

Results Significantly higher plasma levels of IL-1b, IL-6, NGF and BDNF were demonstrated in all patients with H1N1 infection respect to controls, while GDNF plasma levels did not undergo significant variations in the two groups. IL-6, NGF and BDNF expression was also significantly correlated with some laboratory and clinical findings, such as fever, cough, specific radiological lesions, and platelet count. No correlation was found between interleukin and neurotrophic factor expression and final outcome.

Conclusions H1N1 virus infection induces an early and significantly up-regulation of both interleukins (IL1b and IL-6) and neurotrophic factors (BDNF and NGF) respect to LRTI patients. The overexpression of these molecular markers is likely to play a neuro-immunomodulatory role in H1N1 infection and may contribute to airway inflammation and disease severity and progression.

279 ANTIOXIDANT EFFECTS OF N-ACETYL CYSTEINE IN A NEONATAL RAT MODEL OF NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS

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Background and Aim Hypoxia and ischemia appear to play an important role in the pathogenesis of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) which is related to oxygen-derived free radical formation. This study was designed to evaluate the role of oxidative stress and potentially beneficial effects of N-acetylcysteine (NAC) in a neonatal rat model of NEC.

Methods Thirty Wistar albino rat pups were randomly divided into 3 groups: group 1, control; group 2, NEC and saline; group 3, NEC and NAC treatment. NEC was induced by hyperosmolar enteral formula feeding and exposure to hypoxia after cold stress at 4°C and oxygen. The pups were killed on the fourth day and their intestinal tissues were harvested for biochemical and histopathologic analysis.

Results Mucosal injury scores and intestinal malondialdehyde levels in group 2 were found to be significantly higher than other groups ($p < 0.05$). Intestinal superoxide dismutase activities in group 3 were significantly higher than group 2 ($p = 0.018$). Intestinal tissue TNF- α levels were significantly reduced with NAC treatment in group 3 compared to group 2 ($p < 0.003$).

Conclusions It is more likely that oxidative stress and inflammatory mediators contributed to the pathogenesis of NEC and that NAC had a protective effect on intestinal injury through its antiinflammatory and antioxidant properties.

280 ANALYSIS OF NEC INDUCING FACTORS OF PRETERM UNDER 1500G

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Background and Aim NEC (Necrotizing Enterocolitis) is Various degrees of mucosal or transmural necrosis of the intestine and the most common life-threatening emergency of the gastrointestinal tract in the newborn period. Recently, Transfusion is reported increased odds ratio of NEC after trasnfusion of red blood cells in premature infants.

We studied to investigate the relationship between the NEC inducing factors in preterm under 1500g and red blood cell transfusion.

Method We analyzed Preterm infants(n=180) under 1500g who were admitted at at Kangnam CHA Hospital NICU from January 2006 to december 2009. Preterm infants (G.A:24+6 wk ~35+4wk, B.W 740 g ~1490 g) were grouped NEC group(n=18, $\geq$ Stage 2b) and No-NEC group (n=162, < Stage 2b). NEC group was defined more stage 2b by modified Bell's criteria. No-NEC group was defined under stage 2b. Statistics analysis used t-test, cross-tab, logistic regression by SPSS 12.0.

Result NEC group (n=18, 27.61 $\pm$ 2.15 wk, 1027.78 $\pm$ 343.57 g) was significant in Apgar(1min)(3.33 $\pm$ 1.5 vs 4.39 $\pm$ 1.6, $p=0.01$), Apgar(5min)(5.67 $\pm$ 1.64 vs 6.45 $\pm$ 1.41, $p=0.03$) score and RDS (100% vs 80.9%, $p=0.04$) with No-NEC group(n=162, 28.96 $\pm$ 2.98 wk, 1134.2 $\pm$ 271.36 g). Transfusion was not significant between NEC group (89%) and No-NEC group(77%). By multivariate logistic regression, gestation age and ventilator duration was correlation with NEC. The odds ratio of transfusion was 1.211 (95%CI: 0.377~3.887, $p=0.748$) after adjustment of gestation age and Apgar score.

Abstract 280 Table 1 Clinical Characteristics of Preterm Infants

	NEC (n=18)	No-NEC (n=162)	P-value
B.W(g)	1027.78 $\pm$ 343.57	1134.2 $\pm$ 271.36	NS
G.A(wk)	27.61 $\pm$ 2.15	28.96 $\pm$ 2.98	NS
Male gender(n)	7 (38.89%)	77 (47.53%)	NS
Apgar(1min)	3.33 $\pm$ 1.5	4.39 $\pm$ 1.64	0.01
Apgar(5min)	5.67 $\pm$ 1.64	6.45 $\pm$ 1.41	0.03
PDA(n)	7 (38.89%)	47 (29.01%)	NS
RDS(n)	18 (100.0%)	131 (80.86%)	0.046
ventilator(d)	8.33 $\pm$ 7.28	6.99 $\pm$ 11.22	NS
Trasfusion(n)	16 (88.89%)	124 (76.54%)	NS

Conclusion Apgar score and RDS was significant correlation with NEC. Transfusion was not significant correlation with NEC.

281 PROTEIN C AND PROTEIN S IN THE DIAGNOSIS, MANAGEMENT AND PROGNOSIS OF PREMATURE INFANT WITH NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS

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Objective In this prospective, observational study, we determined whether serum protein C and protein S (PC/PS) activity correlated with necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) stages II and III in premature infant. We hypothesized that PC/PS measurement if used as an adjunct to abdominal radiographs would improve the identification and predication of infants with NEC.

Methods Serum PC/PS activity was measured according to protocol at early stage and recover stage of NEC. When clinical signs persisted and the initial abdominal radiographs were abnormal, follow-up radiographs were obtained. Results. Of 45 infants who were evaluated for gastrointestinal signs, only 2 had ileus or benign pneumatosis intestinalis with persistently normal PC/PS; gastrointestinal manifestations resolved within 48 hours, antibiotics were discontinued in < 48 hours, and feedings were restarted early without complications. 35 infants had NEC stages II and III; all had decreased PC/PS activity regardless of their blood culture results. PC/PS activity negatively correlative with severity of NEC and positively correlative with the recover form NEC.

Conclusions In infants with suspected NEC, normal PC/PS values would favor aborted antibiotic therapy and early resumption of feedings. PC/PS becomes significantly lower in both stage II and stage III NEC. In infants with NEC, persistently decreased PC/PS after initiation of appropriate medical management suggests associated complications, which may require surgical intervention.

282 MATERNAL PREECLAMPSIA IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS IN PRETERM INFANTS

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Objective The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of maternal preeclampsia on development and severity of NEC in premature infants.

Methods This study consisted 2 groups of preterm infants (≤ 37 gestational age): the study group contained preterm infants born to a preeclamptic mother and the comparison group contained preterm infants born to a normotensive mother. NEC was diagnosed according to clinical and radiographic findings, and it was classified according to modified Bell's criteria.

Result The study group consisted 174 premature infants born to preeclamptic mothers and the control group consisted 327 premature infants born to normotensive mothers. There were a total of 88 infants (40 infants in the study group and 48 infants in the control group) who had NEC diagnosis. The incidence of NEC in infants born to preeclamptic mothers (22.9%) was significantly higher compared with those born to normotensive mothers (14.6%). NEC was more advanced in preeclamptic mother infants. NEC developed significantly earlier in infants with NEC in the study group compared to those with NEC in the control group. The duration of NEC was also significantly longer in infants born to preeclamptic mothers.

Conclusion Maternal preeclampsia may be an important risk factor for development of NEC in premature infants as NEC incidence