

**PO-0575 INDICATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF LUMBAR PUNCTURES IN PRETERM NEONATES IN A TERTIARY NEONATAL UNIT**

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**Background** Lumbar puncture (LP) is usually performed when there is a clinical suspicion of meningitis in babies with suspected sepsis. Meningitis can be challenging to diagnose in preterm babies.

**Aim** To audit the indications and outcomes of LPs performed in preterm babies (<37+0 weeks) in a tertiary neonatal unit.

**Methods** A list of preterm babies who had an LP was obtained from the Microbiology Department between 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2013. The Badger electronic patient record and hospital blood results systems were reviewed to collect the data.

**Results** In the last 4 years we had 2618 preterm babies admitted to the neonatal unit. 98 LPs were performed in 89 preterm babies. The reasons for LPs were; (a) raised CRP in 60 cases (median CRP was 65), (b) positive blood culture in 28 cases, (c) abnormal neurology in 13 cases, (d) other reasons in 13 cases. In some cases, an LP was indicated by a combination of these factors. There were two positive cultures; one with Group B Streptococcus and another with Serratia Marcescens. At discharge, 5 had a diagnosis of meningitis based on microscopy and/or culture.

**Conclusion** The predominant indication for LPs in preterm babies was a raised CRP followed by a positive blood culture. We only isolated organisms from two samples. Diagnosing meningitis in preterm babies remains challenging but should always be suspected in the presence of a raised CRP and positive blood culture.

**PO-0576 DIFFERENTIAL LIPOPOLYSACCHARIDE-INDUCED miRNA EXPRESSION PROFILE AND TLR SIGNALLING GENES IN LEUKOCYTES FROM NEWBORNS AND ADULTS**

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**Background and aims** Newborns are more susceptible to microbial infections than are adults. To explore the molecular mechanisms underlying the increased susceptibility of newborns to infection, we compared the expression profile of miRNAs in response to LPS stimulation *in vitro* in leukocytes from newborns and adults.

**Methods** We obtained blood samples from 10 healthy term newborns and 11 healthy adults. Whole blood cells were cultured *in vitro* with or without LPS. After 2 h of culture, leukocytes were isolated, and total RNA was extracted. The miRCURY LNA Array (v.14.0) was used to detect miRNAs expression profile. TLR-related genes were studied by microarray and PCR arrays. A bioinformatics analysis was used to identify the potential biological processes and targets involved in the TLR signals affected by these miRNAs.

**Results** A total of 53 miRNAs and 29 TLR-related genes were differentially expressed between newborns and adults. The bioinformatics analysis showed that the potential target genes of these differential miRNAs were involved in regulation of cellular biosynthetic process, regulation of gene expression, regulation of

macromolecule biosynthetic process, etc. Twelve potential miRNA-mRNA interaction sites were found within the cDNA sequences of ten differentially expressed TLR signalling pathway genes.

**Conclusions** We identified a differential miRNA expression profile during LPS-induced acute inflammation in leukocytes derived from newborns and adults. The target genes of these differential miRNA were mainly involved in several biological processes, and these miRNAs may play important roles in the regulation of TLR signals. However, the precise mechanisms require further validation.

**PO-0577 "OLD" AND "NEW" MARKERS IN EARLY NEONATAL SEPSIS – DIAGNOSIS VALUE**

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**Background and aim** To evaluate the diagnosis value of TLR-2 (Toll-like Receptors), TLR-4, IL-6 (interleukine -6), TNF- $\alpha$  (tumour necrosis factor -  $\alpha$ ) and CRP(C reactive protein) in the diagnosis of early neonatal sepsis at the premature babies with premature rupture of the membranes.

**Material and methods** Diagnosis of sepsis was done according with International Sepsis Definitions Criteria. Study group involved newborns with signs and symptoms suggestive for systemic infection, requiring full sepsis evaluation and antibiotic treatment and control group is represented by healthy newborns. We determined in the I-st day TLR-2, TLR-4, IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$  and CRP and in the III-th day the same without TLR. We used latex agglutination test for CRP, Elisa technique for TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 and flow cytometry for TLR. Statistical analysis was done with "Statistica VI".

**Results** Sepsis group presented in the I-st day: TNF- $\alpha$  (pg/ml)= 14,7[5,0–24,3]; IL6 (pg/ml)=153,7[82,3–225,1]; CRP (mg%)= 0,83[0,54–1,12]; and the expression (%) of TLR2 = 42,5 [29,5–55,4]; and TLR4 = 2,2[1,26–3,15]. TNF-  $\alpha$  correlates significantly and negative with TLR2. TLR2 correlates significantly and positive with TLR4. In the 3-rd day: TNF- $\alpha$  (pg/ml)= 10,1 [5,1–15,1]; IL6(pg/ml)=46,5[16,3–76,7]; CRP (mg%)= 1,2[0,6–1,81]. Control group presented: TLR2(%) = 5,69 ( $p = 0,00006$ ) and TLR4(%) = 0,67( $p = 0,037$ ). In the first day TNF- $\alpha$  and IL6 were higher in study group vs. control group but no statistical differences.

**Conclusions** TLR-2 and TLR-4 could confirm like markers the neonatal sepsis.

IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  consider to be markers of early neonatal sepsis.

CRP could not be consider like marker for early neonatal sepsis.

**PO-0578 PHOTOTHERAPY DECREASES THE SERUM GLOBULIN CONCENTRATION IN NEWBORN HYPERBILIRUBINEMIA?**

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