

Aim Update our systematic review of probiotic supplementation (Started within first 10 days, duration: 37 days) in preventing 3 stage II NEC in preterm VLBW neonates.

Method Standard Cochrane Neonatal Review Group search strategy was followed. CENTRAL, MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL databases, proceedings (from 2009) of the Pediatric Academic Society meetings and Gastroenterology conferences were searched in September 2011.

Results Total 17 RCTs (N=3147) including recently published 5 new RCTs (N= 840) were eligible for inclusion in the meta-analysis. The risk of NEC [RR: 0.39; 95% CI: 0.27, 0.56; $p < 0.00001$] and death (RR: 0.54; 95% CI: 0.41, 0.72) $p < 0.0001$ was significantly lower and the time to full feeds was significantly shorter in the probiotic group (WMD= -2.29 days; 95% CI: -4.25, -0.32; $p < 0.00001$). Risk of sepsis was similar in both groups (RR: 0.92; 95% CI: 0.80, 1.06). Subgroup analysis, according to baseline incidence of NEC (< 6% and $\geq 6\%$) also showed significant benefits of probiotics in both scenarios.

Conclusions The results of our updated Meta analysis continue to show the benefits of probiotic supplementation. We have now provided additional evidence of its benefits in units with high as well as low baseline incidence of NEC.

References (1,2): *Deshpande et al, Lancet 2007 and Pediatrics 2010* (3): *Alfaleh et al 2011*.

1377 NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS IN MULTIPLE GESTATIONS: COMPARISON WITH SINGLETONS

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¹N Zampieri, ²C Zamboni, ³G Scirè, ⁴A Mantovani, ⁵F Camoglio. ¹Department of Anesthetic and Surgical Sciences, Pediatric Surgical Unit, University of Verona, Policlinico G.B.Rossi; ²Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Prenatal Diagnosis Unit, Civile Maggiore Hospital, Verona, Italy

NEC is one of the most important surgical disease in the first few days after birth. The aim of this study is to describe incidence of Necrotizing enterocolitis in multiple gestations compared with singletons, determining the neonatal outcome, risk factors and comorbid factors.

A retrospective review of the discharge records of multiple-gestation and singletons infants admitted into the neonatal intensive care units between January 2002 and January 2009 was performed.

The medical charts of all infants developing NEC or suspected NEC were reviewed and perinatal data recorded. The risk and comorbid factors of two main groups (developing NEC and not developing NEC) were analyzed.

During the study period we considered 409 infants from multiple gestations and 895 singletons. The percentage of infants with NEC in multiple gestation (18%) was higher than singleton prematurity at the same Hospital (4%) ($p < 0.05$). Patients with suspected or advanced NEC showed longer time of meconium evacuation if compared to the others (mean 5 vs. 2 days, $p < 0.05$). Patients who received bowel enemas starting from day 2 after birth did not develop NEC or advanced NEC ($p < 0.05$). Mortality was associated with lower gestational age and lower Apgar score at 1 minute ($p < 0.05$).

The analysis of multiple pregnancies showed that the incidence of NEC(stage II but Stage III) increased with respect to singleton pregnancies only when considered in relation to a higher prematurity rate.

1378 MECONIUM OBSTRUCTION IN VERY-LOW-BIRTH-WEIGHT PREMATURE INFANTS

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¹E Okulu, ²D Yıldız, ³S Alan, ⁴A Kılıç, ⁵M Akin, ⁶B Atasay, ⁷S Arsan, ⁸M Koloğlu, ⁹A Yağmurlu, ¹⁰H Dindar. ¹Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology; ²Department of Pediatric Surgery, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

Aim Meconium obstruction(MO) is a clinical entity primarily affecting very-low-birth-weight(VLBW) premature infants. Intestinal obstruction symptoms in a VLBW infant who did not have evidence of necrotizing enterocolitis, did not have another mechanical or functional cause of obstruction defined as MO.

Method We report a series of 14 infants, whose clinical course is indicative of MO of prematurity.

Results One-hundred-thirty VLBW infants born between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011. Fourteen(11%) patients were diagnosed as MO. Mean gestational age and birth weight were 28.8 ± 2.6 weeks and 943.7 ± 238.3 g, respectively. Ninety-three percent of infants were delivered by C/S. Eight (57%) of infants had aforementioned prenatal risk factors for MO. The time of the passage of the first meconium was between 10-to-72 hours. All patients presented with distended abdomen and feeding intolerance. Abdominal plain x-rays showed multiple distended intestinal loops without air-fluid levels in all cases. Medical therapy, consisting of rectal enema with saline, if failed, enema with N-acetylcysteine was performed. Eleven of the patients underwent ileostomy surgery between postnatal age of 2-to-43 days. Nine patients (64%) survived, and the times to full enteral feeding was between day of life 13-to-81 days, the median length of hospital stay was 50 days (range 15-92 days) in these patients. One of the patients was diagnosed as Hirschsprung's disease in the follow-up period.

Conclusion VLBW infants with MO can be diagnosed based on their typical clinical and plain radiographic characteristics. Medical management is effective, whereas some cases may need surgically management as ours.

1379 TRANSFUSION-ASSOCIATED NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS IN VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT PREMATURE INFANTS

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¹G Demirel, ²IH Celik, ³HT Aksoy, ⁴O Erdeve, ⁵SS Oguz, ⁶N Uras, ⁷U Dilmen. ¹Neonatology, Zekai Tahir Burak Maternity and Teaching Hospital; ²Pediatrics, Yildirim Beyazit University, Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

Background and Aims Our aim was to determine the relationship between red blood cell transfusion and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) in all admitted very low birth weight (VLBW) infants with or without transfusion.

Methods All VLBW neonates were categorized into five groups:

1. subjects that developed NEC < 48 hours after transfusion (n = 15);
2. subjects that developed NEC > 48 hours after transfusion (n = 31);
3. subjects that were never transfused but developed NEC, (n = 50);
4. subjects that were transfused but did not develop NEC, (n = 250);
5. and subjects that were neither transfused nor developed NEC (n = 301).

Results A group of 647 infants were enrolled in the study. Mean gestational age and birth weight of the patients were 29 ± 3.1 weeks and 1157 ± 237 grams, respectively. The mean age at the onset of NEC in the NEC groups were 20 ± 2.3 days, 12 ± 3 days, and 11 ± 2.6 days, respectively ($P < 0.05$). The mean interval from the last transfusion to the onset of NEC was 16.8 ± 8.8 hours in Group 1 and 240 ± 50 hours in Group 2 ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion In this study, we sought to evaluate all VLBW infants, whether they received a transfusion or not. We suggest that transfusion associated NEC exists, but many other factors influence this multifactorial disease. The age of NEC onset was later in transfused versus non-transfused patients, whereas the interval between transfusion and NEC was shorter.