MONITORING FOR HYPOGLYCAEMIC NEWBORNS – SHOULD WE EXPAND OUR RISK CATEGORIES?

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Background and objectives Universal hypoglycaemia monitoring of newborns is not recommended. We wished to determine the incidence, presentation and case characteristics of hypoglycaemic newborns that were not being monitored.

Methods Through the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program we conducted a national study of severe hypoglycaemia in apparently low-risk full-term newborns. Inclusion criteria were: an otherwise healthy infant less than 96 hours old; gestational age 37–42 weeks; birth weight 2500–3999 grams; whole blood or serum glucose less than 2.0 mmol/L and IV dextrose used to treat the hypoglycaemia. Data were managed and analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 24.0 (Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.).

Results From April 2014 to March 2016, 177 cases were reported. There were 5 duplicates, 33 cases did not meet inclusion criteria and 46 questionnaires were not returned, leaving 93 confirmed cases. The estimated incidence was 1 in 8378 births. All cases were singletons, 56% were first-borns and 65% were male. An 8% rate of First Nations cases was 3-fold the population rate. Maternal hypertension was present in 23%, 4-fold the overall pregnancy rate. Maternal obesity was double the overall pregnancy rate at 23%. Concerning signs or feeding issues were present at diagnosis in 98%. Median time to diagnosis was 4.1 hours. Mean blood glucose was 1.4±0.5 hours (SD). Seventy eight percent had at least one of 4 potential perinatal stress indicators (emergency Cesarean Section, meconium at delivery, requiring resuscitation or cord artery pH <7.10). Those cases were more likely to be diagnosed before 6 hours (p=0.03). Twenty five percent (23 cases) were small for gestational age (SGA) with birth weight <10th centile, of which 5 had seizures and 5 had hyperinsulinism. Presentation with major clinical signs (seizure, apnoea or cyanosis) occurred in 20%. Neurodevelopmental concern was present in 20% of all cases. Amongst 13 cases which had brain MRI, 11 were abnormal.

Conclusion While acknowledging the study’s limitations, the impact of First Nations origin, maternal obesity, maternal hypertension and perinatal stress indicators warrant further study and possible incorporation into glucose monitoring guidelines. The data further supports adoption of norm-based standards to identify and monitor all SGA infants.

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NUTRITIONAL RICKETS PRESENTING TO SECONDARY CARE IN CHILDREN (<16 YEARS) – A UK SURVEILLANCE STUDY

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Aims Rickets is a disease of growing children with serious short and long-term complications. Although the prevalence of rickets has been reported widely to be increasing the actual national incidence of nutritional rickets (NR) in the United Kingdom (UK) is unknown. This study aims to describe the incidence, presentation, and clinical management of children with NR in the UK and ROI.

Methods Data was collected prospectively monthly between March 2015-March 2017 from 3500 paediatricians using British Paediatric Surveillance Unit reporting methodology with the following definition (table 1):

Abstract 116 Table 1

Clinical rickets with any of the following:

- Leg deformity/Swollen wrists or knees or ribs AND 250 hour vitamin D<25 nmol/L, with one or more abnormalities of serum calcium, alkaline phosphatase, phosphate, parathyroid hormone

OR

Radiological rickets with:

- Widening, cupping, splaying of metaphysis (of any long bone) AND 250 Vitamin D<25 nmol/L