

1308 ASPIRATION OF THE SECRETIONS IN NEONATAL RESUSCITATION. AN EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

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Background and Aims Aspiration of the secretions at birth is a step performed in the care of the newborn immediately after delivery, but it is not supported by evidence-based data. Our study aim is to prove the suction of the secretions is a necessary step in neonatal resuscitation and care at delivery.

Method We studied 1154 consecutive cesarean section deliveries. The care at birth was according to the AAP Resuscitation Guidelines, except the neonates were randomized to mandatory aspiration of the secretions at delivery by suction catheter (S group) or clearing the secretions from the mouth when they are visible by gentle aspiration of the mouth (C group). There were noted the time to first breath, need for bag and mask ventilation, occurrence of respiratory distress, need for mechanical ventilation, blood gas values at delivery.

Results 25/577 of the neonates in the S group developed respiratory grunting after delivery compared with 42/577 neonates in the C group ($p < 0.001$). The need of bag and mask ventilation at birth was similar between the groups (10/577 C; 11/577 S group). When stratified for gestational age (GA), 12/253 neonates in the S group with GA less than 38 weeks presented with respiratory distress and grunting after delivery compared with 35/260 in the C group ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions Aspiration of the secretions at birth is a necessary step in the care at birth of the newborns born by cesarean section, especially if they are 38 weeks or less gestational age.

1309 ELEVATED 17-HYDROXYPROGESTERONE [17-OHP] LEVELS: A FETOPLACENTAL MECHANISM TO PREVENT PRETERM BIRTH?

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Background and Aims Elevated 17-Hydroxyprogesterone [17-OHP] levels in preterm infants are often false positives. We theorized the elevation was related to preterm labor [PTL] and not related to maternal or fetal disease. We surmised that an elevated fetoplacental 17-OHP is akin to obstetrical therapy with progesterone to prevent preterm birth.

Methods Infants with congenital adrenal hyperplasia were excluded. Nucleated red blood cell count [nRBC] was a marker of chronic fetal hypoxia or severe preeclampsia and C-reactive protein [CRP] was an indicator of perinatal infection. Using an effect size of 0.5 with a two-tail test, an alpha of 0.05, and a power of 0.8, at least 66 infants were needed for this study.

Results Fifty-three male and 47 female infants had a mean gestational age of 32.4 and 31.2 weeks, respectively. No mothers received therapy with progesterone for PTL; however, 84% of mothers had PTL. Pearson's correlation showed lower birth weight ($r = -0.65$, $p < 0.001$), gestational age ($r = -0.64$, $p < 0.001$), and one minute APGAR scores ($r = -0.21$, $p = 0.04$) were significantly associated with increased 17-OHP levels. There was no correlation between CRP or nRBC and 17-OHP levels. After an initial elevated 17-OHP, repeat testing was normal.

Conclusions Intrapartum infection and preeclampsia did not correlate with elevated 17-OHP levels as previously reported. An elevated 17-OHP in preterm infants is associated with PTL and birth. Whether an elevated 17-OHP level at birth confers protection to preterm infants from morbidity or death requires additional investigation.

1310 A STUDY OF PROFESSIONALS' OPINIONS OF HOME DELIVERIES: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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Background and Aims A recent Government policy drive is to increase home delivery rates. Data are lacking about whether this strategy is embraced by perinatal healthcare professionals. Our aim was to examine opinions regarding home deliveries held by consultant paediatricians, neonatologists, gynaecologists, obstetricians, GPs and midwives.

Methods Cross-sectional survey of UK professionals in East Anglia. Likert scales ranging from 0–10 assessed professionals' general experiences of and enthusiasm for home birthing and support for the Government's plan.

Results 52% of professionals responded, including 68% of Paediatricians. Paediatricians and Neonatologists generally reported negative experiences of home delivery and were considerably less enthusiastic regarding home deliveries than any other professionals.

Paediatricians generally held a negative outlook on home delivery [median 4, IQ 3–5] and were in opposition to the government's plan [median 3, IQ 2–5], whilst midwives were more enthusiastic about home delivery than any other profession [median 9, IQ 8–10, $p < 0.0001$] and were more likely to support the government plan to increase the rate of home deliveries [median 8.5, IQ 7–10, $p < 0.0001$]. GP's, obstetricians and gynaecologists tended to give more neutral or negative opinions towards home birth [GP (median 5, IQ 3–7.5) ObGyn (median 5, IQ 2–7)] and towards the government's plan [GP (median 5, IQ 2–6) ObGyn (median 5, IQ 2–5)].

Conclusions Negative experiences and opinions of perinatal healthcare professionals regarding home delivery may adversely affect its uptake by women and will need to be addressed if the Government's plan to increase home delivery rates is to succeed.

1311 'TUBES' AND CATHETER POSITIONS IN NEONATES TRANSFERRED TO A TERTIARY NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OVER A 2 YEAR PERIOD

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Introduction

- Endotracheal tubes (ETT), Chest tubes (CT), Nasogastric tubes (NGT), umbilical artery and venous catheters (UAC, UVC), Long lines (LL) are crucial in the management of babies transferred and admitted to neonatal intensive care units (NICU). Optimal positions must be ascertained before transfer and on admission to avoid complications.
- To the best of our knowledge, there has not been any published data looking at admission positions of all these tubes and catheters.

Aim

To determine:

- positions of these tubes and lines on admission of babies transferred for intensive care to a tertiary NICU.
- any radiological and other complications that may have been associated with sub-optimally placement on admission.

Methods

Retrospective study

- 01/2010–12/2011