Background Apnoea of prematurity (AOP) is a significant clinical problem in premature infants and is almost universal in infants < 1000 g at birth. Caffeine has emerged as the methylxanthine of choice to treat AOP. Although it is commonly used, there is no unified consensus or guideline on its use in NNUs in England.

Aim To study the current practice of caffeine use in AOP at NNUs in England.

Methods A telephonic survey of level 3 and level 2 units in England was conducted, using a standardised questionnaire, over November and December, 2011.

Results Out of 52 units surveyed, 48% were level 3 units. All units used caffeine for treatment of AOP (base 60% and citrate 40% of units). 92% of units have written guidelines on caffeine use. Caffeine was started by 47% of units based on gestational age, regardless of symptoms. All units used a loading dose, which varied between 5 and 25mg/kg (median of 10mg/kg) for caffeine base and 15 to 20mg/kg (median of 20mg/kg) for citrate. The maintenance dose varied between 2.5–6mg/kg/day (median of 5mg/kg/day) for base and 5–12mg/kg/day (median of 5mg/kg/day) for citrate. Caffeine levels were routinely performed by 7% of units. Caffeine was discontinued between 30 to 36 weeks gestation.

Discussion Our survey depicts that practice of caffeine use varies significantly across NNU units in England. The results from this survey could be used as a further for further data collection, for formulation of a uniform guideline maximising the utilisation of this extensively studied drug.

Conclusions The current dobutamine PK data is difficult to interpret due to inhomogeneity and variability of patients’ age and conditions, dobutamine dosages and study designs. High quality prospective PK data -especially in newborns- is urgently required prior to our large randomised study.
associated with decreased HRQOL include: comorbidity, older age at transplantation, medication side effects, and parental conflict. Two specific problems in pediatric organ transplantation are adherence to medication and transition from pediatric to adult transplant care. Early disease onset, poor nutritional status, growth deficits, and longer duration of illness prior to transplant have been identified as factors contributing to an adverse cognitive development of these children.

Studies are heterogeneous regarding operationalization of HRQOL, study design, length of follow-up, and age of the children. There are only few prospective multi-center studies, which should be encouraged in future research including specific internationally accepted validated instruments.

Against the background of a new era of immunosuppressive therapy (steroid minimization, individualized therapy), a better long-term outcome in these children could be expected.

### Abstracts

**161 CHILDREN AS DONORS: A NATIONAL PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE STUDY TO ASSESS PROCUREMENT OF ORGANS AND TISSUES**

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**Objectives** Shortage of size-matched organs and of tissues is the key factor limiting transplantation in children. Empirical data on the procurement process in children is sparse. This study aimed to gain insight into the recognition of potential pediatric donors in the Netherlands and the procurement process.

**Methods** A national retrospective cohort study in the Dutch pediatric intensive care units. The records of 683 deceased children were analyzed by two independent donation experts and procurement process data were compared with the national protocol.

**Results** From 2003 thru 2006, 74 (11%) of the deceased children were found to have been suitable for organ donation and 132 (19%) for tissue donation. Sixty-two (94%) potential organ donors had been correctly identified; parental consent had been obtained and donation effectuated in 26/62 children (42%). Sixty-three potential tissue donors (53%) had been correctly identified; parental consent had been obtained and donation effectuated in 17/63 children (27%).

**Conclusion** Recognition of pediatric organ donors by medical professionals is acceptable; recognition of tissue donors may be improved. Efforts to address the shortage of organs and tissues for transplantation in children should focus on the gap between recognition of donors and parental consent. We suggest such studies should not only assess the process itself, i.e. the competencies of the professional staff (micro-level) but also the influence of legislation, societal views on donation by children, and the potential relevance of children’s views on donation (macro-level).

**162 CONGENITAL CHLORIDE DIARRHEA: A SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE WITH 43 CHILDREN**

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**Background** Congenital chloride diarrhea(CCD), A rare deadly autosomal recessive disorder of chronic diarrhea in infancy.

**Methods** Patients diagnosed with CCD between 1986–2009 were studied. The demographic data, clinical findings and biochemical findings were collected and statistically analyzed.

**Results** Forty-three patients (28M/15F) had CCD. Fifteen patients (35%) were diagnosed after one year of age (late referral or misdiagnosis as Bartter syndrome). Premature delivery in 24 cases (55.8%). Polyhydramnios in 26 pregnancies. All patients were distributed among 19 families with 33 children being the outcome of consanguineous marriages. Intractable diarrhea was the presenting symptom in 40patients (93%), Biochemical data revealed: Serum potassium (1.3–4.1, mean 2.4Mmol/l), s. chloride (39–95, mean76.2Mmol/l), s.bicarbonate (22–54) mean-37.6 Mmol/l). Fecal chloride (134±21.6, mean±SD)(range 90–205). The fecal chloride over fecal sodium plus potassium ratio was 0.6 (1.1±0.3, mean ± SD) (N=0.2). Associated disorders were: chronic renal failure 7 (16%), congenital anomalies 8 (19%), mental retardation 4 (9.3%) seizures 8 (19%), and brain atrophy 4 (9%). Complications were seen mostly among patients with late referral or poor compliance. At diagnosis, 35 (81.4%) cases were below –2SD for weight for-age, 31 (72%) for weight-for-height, and 31 (72%) for height-for-age. Children under five years of age showed improvement in weight for height as compared with older children.

**Conclusions** CCD is a treatable cause of intractable diarrhea in infancy.

Awareness, early diagnosis and proper management are essential in preventing irreversible and long-term organ damage and a better outcome compared to those with late referrals.

CCD is to be considered in infants with severe persistent diarrhea where a high rate of consanguineous marriage prevails.

**163 LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION FOR ALAGILLE SYNDROME: RECIPIENT CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTCOME IN A SINGLE CENTER**

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**Background and aims** Alagille syndrome (AGS) is rare in Taiwan. The aim of this study was to review our institutional experience with liver transplantation (LT) for AGS.

**Methods** We performed a retrospective analysis of transplant records of patients diagnosed as AGS and underwent LT between 1997 and 2010. Nine patients underwent living donor LT.

**Results** Cholestasis and characteristic faces were seen in all patients. Posterior embryotoxon was seen in 4/9 (44.4%), butterfly vertebrae in 3/9 (33.3%), heart defect (pulmonary stenosis in 2) in 3/9 (33.3%), and renal disease in 2/9 (22.2%) patients. Immunodiabetic acid scans showed no excretion of isotope into the bowel after 24 hours in 4/9 (44.4%). A small gallbladder on ultrasonography was noted in 3/9 (33.3%) and suggested a false diagnosis of biliary atresia. All underwent diagnostic laparotomy and liver biopsy. Liver biopsy showed characteristic features of paucity of interlobular bile ducts in all patients. Kasai portoenterostomy was not performed in any patient before being referred for LT. The mean age at time of LT was 4.6 years. The 5-year overall survival rate after living donor LT was 88.9%.

**Conclusions** Our conclusion is that the clinical features of AGS are informative. Histological confirmation is important in the diagnosis. These findings support the concept that infants with liver diseases warrant early referral to a specialist center.

**164 LINEAR GROWTH AFTER PEDIATRIC LIVER TRANSPLANTATION**

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To determine growth patterns in a children undergoing liver transplantation, the outcomes of orthotopic liver transplantations performed in 10 children at Hamad General Hospital between October 2005 and October 2009 were reviewed. The mean age at transplantation was 27 +/- 50 months; 80% of the children were females. The