Results

Maternal allopurinol administration during term labor is neuroprotective in case of fetal hypoxia; a multicenter randomized placebo controlled trial

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Background Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy due to perinatal hypoxia-induced free radical formation is an important cause of long-term neurodevelopmental disabilities. Allopurinol reduces the formation of free radicals, which potentially limits hypoxia-induced reperfusion damage. With this trial we aimed to assess whether maternal allopurinol treatment during fetal hypoxia would reduce the release of brain-tissue-specific biomarkers associated with neonatal brain damage.

Methods We performed a randomized double blind placebo controlled multicenter trial (NCT0189007) studying laboring women at term with imminent fetal hypoxia. Fetal distress was suspected in case of an abnormal fetal heart rate trace, ST-wave abnormalities on fetal ECG or fetal scalp pH<7.20. Women were allocated to receive allopurinol 500 mg IV or placebo immediately prior to delivery. Endpoints were S100B and neuroketal in cord blood, which are brain-tissue-specific biomarkers for brain damage. Because S100B followed a non-normal distribution, we used a poisson regression model with associated RR (95%CI). For neuroketal we report geometric mean differences.

Results We randomized 222 women to allopurinol (n=111) or placebo (n=111). S100B was significantly lower in the allopurinol-group (median 43.4; IQR 20.2–71.5) compared to the placebo-group (median 54.9; IQR 26.8–94.7), RR 0.91 (95%CI 0.88–0.94). Neuroketal did not significantly differ between groups, geometric mean difference −7.57 (95%CI −15.6; 3.57).

Post-hoc analysis showed a marked gender difference in treatment effect in favor of girls for S100B (RR 0.63 (95%CI 0.59–0.68)) and neuroketal (geometric mean difference −16.5 (95%CI −24.6; −1.83)).

Conclusion Maternal treatment with allopurinol during fetal hypoxia reduces damage to neuronal cells as indicated by brain-tissue-specific chemical biomarkers.

NIPPV does not reduce bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) or death in extremely low birth weight infants - a randomised trial

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Background Standard care of preterm infants includes nCPAP & NIPPV. We compared rates of BPD or death in a randomised trial of NIPPV or nCPAP.

Methods Eligible infants were preterm, birth weight <1000g; requiring either (i) non-invasive respiratory support within first seven days, “no intubation/early extubation group”, or (ii) were <28 days at first extubation - “prior intubation”. Central block randomisation to NIPPV or nCPAP was conducted via the web. Primary outcome was a composite of death (prior to 36 weeks’ gestational age [GA]) or BPD at 28 days at GA: defined as requiring ventilation; FiO2 >30%; or positive oxygen reduction test (ORT). Sample size 1000 (β 80%, 2-tailed α 5%) to demonstrate 20% reduction in primary outcome.

Results 86 international sites enrolled 1007 infants. Observed rates of BPD or death were similar in the two groups. BFD outcome,