**PO-0572** **UMBILICAL VENOUS CATHETERS WITH AGION ANTIMICROBIAL SYSTEM IN A DUTCH NICU**

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**Background** The majority of preterm infants at NICUs receives a central venous, or umbilical vein catheter (UVC) and is therefore at risk for catheter associated sepsis. Silver-impregnated UVCs with the AgION™ antimicrobial system may prevent sepsis and may have longer insertion time.

**Objective** To assess sepsis and additional CVC insertion with the use of silver-impregnated UVCs compared with conventional ones.

**Methods** Catheter-duration, sepsis and additional CVC use was compared between infants with silver-impregnated UVCs (silver-group) during 1 year (2012–2013) and infants with conventional UVCs (controls) during 2011, when inserted >3 days.

**Results** In 156/249 (2012–2013) infants a silver-impregnated and all 273 with an UVC in 2011 a conventional UVC was inserted. Mean catheter-duration was 5.8 (3–15) days in the silver-group vs 5.7 (3–12) days in the controls (NS). 11/156 (7%) infants from the silvergroup developed sepsis during catheterisation vs 17/267 (6.4%) controls [NS]. Main causative microorganisms: CoNS (62.5%), S. aureus (15.6%), Enterobacter (9.3%). In 22/156 infants of the silver group, UVC use was longer than 8 days, vs in 20/273 controls (NS). 3/22 of the silvergroup with UVC use > 8 days developed sepsis vs 1/273 controls (p = 0.015). Significantly more infants in the silvergroup needed additional CVC insertion 18/156 (11.5%) vs in 28/273 (10.3%) controls (p = 0.000).

**Conclusions** Duration of > 8 days of silver-impregnated UVC significantly increased the risk for sepsis as compared with conventional UVC use.

Silver-impregnated UVCs were not inserted for longer periods than conventional UVCs.

Anti-infectious advantage of the silver-impregnated UVCs could not be proven.

**PO-0573** **A TALE OF TWO CRP’S; IMPLEMENTING THE NICE EARLY ONSET SEPSIS GUIDELINE**

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**Introduction** A rational approach to managing babies at risk of early onset sepsis continues to challenge neonatal units. In August 2012 NICE published guidance on antibiotics for early onset sepsis in neonates (1). We review our unit’s performance in implementing the NICE guidance. Baseline assessment using the NICE tool had been completed previously and the NICE guideline implemented with adjustments for local use.

**Method** A three month prospective audit of babies at risk of or suspected of having early onset sepsis (sepsis within 72 h of birth). The NICE guideline audit tool was used. (3).

**Results** 64 babies were audited. Every baby had a blood culture taken before commencement of antibiotics and were started on correct antibiotic doses. Initial CRP’s were taken in 93% of cases but only 61% had a repeat at 24 h. 69% of babies received antibiotics within 1 h of making clinical decision. 88% had cultures available at 48 h as per local policy.

**Discussion** Our data demonstrates the challenge of implementing a relatively straightforward protocol of care. We excelled in some elements: initial investigation and prescribing accuracy. There was clear room for improvement in other areas.

Simple changes to practice have subsequently been implemented including revised gentamicin prescription charts and education to highlight the importance of timely administration of antibiotics and the evidence behind checking CRP levels (5, 6, 7).

Re-audit is planned for early 2014.

**REFERENCES**