Background and aims Substance misuse within the UK population continues to be a public health concern. Many of those using illicit drugs are women of childbearing age.

Infants born to such women are at risk of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and can require a prolonged stay on the neonatal unit. Understanding of the demographics and outcomes of this vulnerable group of infants and their mothers is vital in order to evolve services to meet needs and improve outcome.


Basic demographic data and specific outcome measures for the infants was collected over the 5 year period.

Changes over that 5 year time period were explored.

Results 442 women and their infants were included in the study. All infants were admitted for treatment/observation of NAS.

The majority of women were of white British (85.7%). Opiates were the most commonly misused substances. 18% of the babies were low birth weight. Breastfed babies were more likely to be discharged within first 7 days of life compared to artificially fed babies (47.6% vs 30.6%, OR 1.55, 95% CI 0.95 to 2.53).

Conclusion The management of infants with NAS continues to challenge. Breastfeeding leads to reduced intensity of NAS, and should be recommended to shorten length of hospital stay for infants born to substance misusing mothers.

References

Background There is a number of infant mannequins available for teaching newborn and infant bag mask ventilation (BMV) skills. These include the NeoNatalie newborn mannequin and the Baby Anne™ infant mannequin (both Laerdal Medical Foundation, Stavanger, Norway).

Objectives To examine user preference and user ability to perform effective BMV with these mannequin models.

Methods Each participant was randomised to use the Baby Anne™ infant mannequin (BA) and the NeoNatalie mannequin (NNA) fully filled with air (NNA), fully filled with water (NNW) and filled with 50% air and 50% water (NNAW), each for a 30 second period. Participants were asked to rate the level of fidelity of the mannequins to a “real baby” on a 5-point likert scale in terms of appearance, weight, feel, tone and realism of ventilation.

Results 20 participants completed this study (10 doctors, 10 nurse/midwives).

Fidelity: BA was similar to NNWA in terms of appearance and similar to NNAW in terms of weight. However, in terms of touch, muscle tone and realism of ventilation, NNW and NNWA were similar and greatly exceeded BA and NNA.

Breaths: Although all configurations were generally comparable, NNW had the most effective breaths delivered.

Discussion The NNW and NNWA were both shown to have the highest level of fidelity to a “real baby” and had the highest number of effective ventilations delivered. The NNA was disliked in terms of fidelity, and the most difficult to bag due to the difficulty in positioning the airway. This study suggests that NeoNatalie configurations that contain water are the easiest to provide.

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