Low-birth-weight is a challenging public health problem.

To clarify role of zinc on enhancing fasting catch-up growth of Low-birth-weight and find out a proposed relationship between zinc effect on growth and the main growth hormone mediator, IGF-1.

Methods Study is a double-blind-randomised-placebo-controlled trial conducted on Low-birth-weight-neonates delivered at Ain Shams University Maternity Hospital. It comprised 200 Low-birth-weight-neonates selected from those admitted to NICU. Neonates were randomly allocated into one of the following two groups: group I: Low-birth-weight; AGA or SGA on oral zinc therapy at dose of 10 mg/day; group II: Low-birth-weight; AGA or SGA on placebo at 10 mg/day placebo. Anthropometric measurements were taken including birth weight, length; head, waist, chest, mid-upper arm circumferences, triceps and sub-scapular skin-fold thicknesses.

Results At 12-month-old follow-up visit, mean weight, Length; head (HC), waist, chest, mid-upper arm circumferences, triceps and sub-scapular skin-fold thicknesses; also, infant’s proportions had values ≥ 10 th% for weight, length and HC were significantly higher among infants of group I when compared to those of group II. Oral zinc therapy was associated with 24.88%, 25.98% and 19.6% higher proportion of values ≥ 10 th% regarding weight, length and HC at 12-month-old visit, respectively [NNT = 4, 4 and 5, respectively]. Median IGF-1 levels measured at 6 months were significantly higher in group I compared to group II [median (range): 90 (19–130) ng/ml vs. 74 (21–130) ng/ml], respectively, \( p = 0.023 \).

Conclusion Oral zinc therapy in low-birth-weight neonates was associated with significantly more catch-up growth at 12-months-old and significantly higher serum IGF-1 at 6-month-old.

Background We have shown that hyperalimentation using the Standardised, Concentrated with Added Macronutrients Parenteral (SCAMP) nutrition regimen improves early preterm head growth (SRCTN 76597892). Early hyperalimentation has been associated with potassium/phosphate deficits. SCAMP uses standardised supplementary electrolyte infusions to immediately correct deficits. We hypothesised that SCAMP (30% more protein/ energy) would require more potassium/phosphate supplementation \((K_{supp}/P_{supp})\) than a control regimen with the same electrolyte content.

Methods Control parenteral nutrition (PN) was started within 6 h of birth and infants (<1200 g; <29 weeks) were randomised to start SCAMP or remain on control PN. Actual daily nutritional/electrolyte intake and plasma electrolyte data (secondary outcomes) were collected for day 1–14.

Results Infants were randomised \((d^2–5)\) to SCAMP \((n = 74)\) and control \((n = 76)\) groups. Maximum differences in protein/energy intakes were achieved day 5–8. These were associated with increased \(K_{supp}/P_{supp}\) requirements in SCAMP infants (Table 1). Despite higher mean potassium/phosphate intakes in SCAMP infants \((d^5–8)\), mean (sd) plasma levels (mmol/l) were lower (not significant): potassium: 4.38 (0.81) versus 4.53 (0.81); phosphate: 1.55 (0.21) versus 1.62 (0.29). Additional calcium/magnesium supplementation \((Ca_{supp}/Mg_{supp})\) was minimal and there was no difference between the groups.

Paediatric Cancer

MICRONRNAS AND CHEMORESISTANCE IN NEUROBLASTOMA

Background Neuroblastoma is a neoplasm of the sympathetic nervous system representing the most frequently diagnosed solid tumour in infants. Despite continued improvements in cancer treatment, the overall survival of patients with high risk neuroblastoma is still only 40–50%. Irrespective of risk factors, neuroblastomas generally respond well to initial therapy. However, the majority of high risk patients relapse with tumours refractory to standard chemotherapeutic agents. Therefore, the understanding of biological and molecular aspects of drug resistance in