Incidence of Late Onset Neonatal Sepsis in Very Low Birth Weight Infants in a Tertiary Hospital

An ongoing challenge

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Abstract: Objectives: Late onset neonatal septicemia (LONS) is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in very low birth weight (VLBW) infants. The main objective of this study was to investigate the rate of LONS in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of King Khalid University Hospital (KKUH) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia over a three year period and compare it to international standards. Methods: To determine the incidence of LONS, a retrospective study was undertaken and premature infants with a birth weight less than 1250 g were included, giving a total of 273 infants. Their bacterial profile and the antimicrobial susceptibility of the isolates were investigated, and the changes in trends over the study period studied. Results: 91.5% of included infants (217/237) had 1 or more blood cultures obtained beyond the second day of life. 41% (98/237) of included infants were investigated, and the changes in trends over the study period studied.

Keywords: Very low birth weight infants; Sepsis; Epidemiology

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