

Retrospective Study of Short Term Mortality and Morbidity in Very Low Birth Weight Babies

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Background

Outcomes of very low birth weight (VLBW) infants have improved after improvement of medical care.

Aims & Objectives

To study mortality and morbidity in VLBW babies before discharge in our NICU.

Materials & Methods

Retrospective data collection was done from case records of all VLBW admitted in NICU from 01-01-2010 to 31-10-2012. Data was collected for gestational age (GA), birth weight (BW) and morbidities like retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), intraventricular haemorrhage (IVH), respiratory distress syndrome (RDS), necrotising enterocolitis (NEC), culture proven sepsis and mortality. Data was analysed with SPSS software.

Results

Data of 369 babies was analysed. Mean gestational age was 31.89 weeks+ 2.63. Mean birth weight was 1.25kg+0.16. Multiple birth composed 22.7 % of total infants and 20.3 % were twins and 2.4% were triplets. RDS was diagnosed in 50%. PDA was diagnosed in 27.8% babies and all received treatment. Incidence of all grades of IVH was 18.5%. Incidence of other morbidities was like ROP (12%), NEC (1.8%) and culture proven sepsis (10.9%). Overall mortality was 8.4%.

Conclusions

There is significant decrease in morbidities like RDS, PDA, IVH/PVL, ROP and NEC. Increasing trends are seen in sepsis. Overall mortality shows rising trends. Probable causes can be increasing sepsis and increasing number of admissions of babies with birth weight <1kg.