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Efficacy of levetricetam in premature infants: Our experience and review of the literature

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Objective: To evaluate levetricetam (LEV) efficacy in preterm infants admitted in NICU.

Study Design: A retrospective study. A total of 26 preterm infants under 37 gestational week who received levetricetam in NICU within 2 years were included. The results were compared with those of 44 preterm infants from the literature who were given levetricetam.

Result: The mean gestational week of the infants receiving levetricetam was found as 26.75 ± 3.37 , mean birth weight as 938.04 ± 561.2 and mean dose of levetricetam as 17.0 ± 9.23 mg/kg. Overall seizure control rate with LEV was found as 65%, while seizure control was achieved by 11.5% when it was used as the first drug, 35% as the second drug and 15,3% as the third drug. The incidence of sepsis and intraventricular hemorrhage in seizure etiology was 73% in infants who received levetricetam. No side effect was observed with levetricetam.

Conclusion: Seizure control was better achieved with LEV given as the 2nd antiepileptic in premature infants. Further studies with randomization of levetricetam and other antiepileptics in seizure control are needed.

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