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Temperature among cases of neonatal sepsis and its association with mortality

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Objectives: To ascertain the prevalence of hyperthermia and different categories of hypothermia among cases of probable and culture proven neonatal sepsis and to evaluate association of mortality rate with axillary temperature at admission.

Methods: All cases of probable and culture proven neonatal sepsis admitted in NICU, Fazl-e-Omar Hospital from January to December 2013 were included in this study. Using WHO classification, cases were categorized according to their temperature on admission and outcome was recorded. SPSS 2.0 was used for data analysis and chi-square test was used to compare frequencies.

Results: A total of 374 patients were included in this study and 47 (12.6%) cases died. Two hundred and seventeen (58%) cases had normal temperature, 49 (13.1%) had hyperthermia, 50 (13.4%) had mild hypothermia and 58 (15.5%) had moderate hypothermia. Mortality rate was high among cases with mild and moderate hypothermia i.e., 32.6% and 33% as compared with mortality rate incases with normal temperature i.e., 6.1% and 11.6% patients with hyperthermia died ($p < 0.0001$). Hypothermia was more common in early onset and hyperthermia was more common in late onset sepsis.

Conclusions: Most of the cases with neonatal sepsis have got normal temperature. Hypothermia is associated with higher mortality.

Biography

Mirza Sultan Ahmad has completed his graduation from Punjab Medical College, Pakistan. He completed his FCPS in 2001. For past 15 years he is working as Head of Department of Pediatrics in Fazl-e-Omar Hospital Rabwah, Pakistan. He has presented 10 research papers in national and international conferences, beside authoring 4 articles in peer review articles. Neonatal sepsis, iron deficiency and electrolyte disorders are his special fields of interest. Beside his profession as Pediatrician, he is a freelance author on history. He has written 3 books on different topics of history.

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