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Morbidity in newborns readmitted into a pediatric clinic after discharge from a maternity unit during the first 28 days of their lives - results from the Rhine-Main area, Germany



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Background: The decreasing length of postnatal hospital stays over the years requires close monitoring of newborns by pediatricians and midwives. Little is known about the reasons leading to neonatal readmissions and their outcomes.

Objective: To examine the factors associated with early neonatal rehospitalization and identify predictive parameters.

Methods: Newborns admitted to a pediatric clinic in the Rhine-Main area during a 10-year-period (2004-2013) were retrospectively analyzed based on their medical files.

Results: A total of 2851 newborns were recorded. Out of which 72% were delivered by vaginal birth. During the 10-year-period, there was a certain fluctuation, but without a significant trend in the number of admissions per year (p=0.062). Jaundice was the most frequent main diagnosis (27%), followed by newborn infection (12.4%), and feeding problems (12.3%). Between October and March jaundice was more frequent than between April and September (29.0% vs. 24.5%, p<0.001). "ALTE"/apnea/cyanosis was the sixth most frequent diagnosis at 7.9%. Newborns exclusively breastfed had fewer feeding problems than newborns with a mixed or an exclusively formula based diet (p<0.001).

Conclusions: Hospital readmissions of newborns throughout the years did not increase. The most frequent reasons for neonatal hospital readmissions are jaundice (more frequent in winter than summer) and newborn infection. Due to the retrospective character of the study, a clear statement as to whether hospitalization can be prevented with more intense preventative measures is not possible. A prospective study in this matter is being planned.

Biography

Anagnostou A has completed her Medical Studies at the University of Athens. After her graduation, she moved to Germany and worked as a Resident Doctor in Paediatrics in Klinikum Hanau (2013-2015), Klinikum Aschaffenburg-Alzenau (2015-2017), and University Hospital of Frankfurt (2017 until present). In March 2018, she successfully finished her specialization in the field of Paediatrics. Since July 2015, she has been a PhD student under the supervision of Prof. Rolf Schlößer, Director of the Neonatology Department at the University Hospital in Frankfurt. The focus of her study is neonatal rehospitalization and the factors associated with them

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