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Survival rates and prevalence of morbidities in very low birth neonates admitted in a limited resources setting level II Special Newborn Care Unit, Nalgonda

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Aims: Primary objectives of study were to look at survival rates and prevalence of morbidities in VLBW neonates admitted in SNCU.

Method: Retrospective study included all VLBW neonates (i.e., birth weight \leq 1500 gms) admitted for various reasons from January 2009 to December 2016. This SNCU is equipped with 20 beds and one bubble CPAP. No facility for ABG, blood culture, ventilator and surfactant. The data regarding variables like mortality, LAMA, referrals to other hospitals and morbidities during hospital stay were collected from electronic data.

Results: A total of 511 VLBW neonates were admitted during the study period. Median birth weight and mean gestational age of neonates were 1344 (183) grams and 32.7 (1.54) weeks respectively. Fifty of 511 VLBW infants had birth or admission weight $<$ 1000 gms. 86 infants (16.8%) died and 15 (2.9%) infants referred to higher centre. 40 (46.5%) neonates succumbed to death within 1 day of life and 31 neonates (36% between 2 to 7 days of life). Most common morbidity was respiratory distress [439 (85.7%)] and 37 (8.4%) required CPAP. Clinical sepsis occurred in 399 (78%) infants and all infants received antibiotic for 5 days. Jaundice requiring phototherapy was 277 (54.2%) infants, apnoea occurred in 154 (30.1%) neonates.

Discussion: In this study survival to hospital discharge was 80.2%. This is the one of the best survival of VLBW infants reported from a SNCU in India.

Conclusions: The survival and morbidities rates reported in the study are comparable to many of the tertiary care hospital and the results shown here will help in conceptualizing the SCNU care.

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