HYPOGLYCEMIA MANAGEMENT OF ASYMPTOMATIC INFANTS BORN TO DIABETIC MOTHERS AT WEXFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL

Dr S. L Naidu and Dr A. Kalim

Paper number: 206/ Record number: 103

BACKGROUND

Neonatal hypoglycaemia is a preventable cause of neurological sequelae. It is the most prevalent metabolic issue among new-borns in their early days of life and a significant contributor to neonatal death overall. Hence, due to the significant morbidity associated with hypoglycemia it is important to screen at risk infants.

AIM

To review the use of neonatal hypoglycaemia guidelines in the management of asymptomatic infants born to diabetic mothers, and to note if all asymptomatic neonates born to diabetic mothers had their blood sugar levels tested.

METHODS

- This was a retrospective audit of the babies born between January 2023 to April 2023 at Wexford General Hospital (WGH).
- The total number of births were 406 and a total of 85 babies were identified as infants of diabetic mothers (IDM) in that duration.
- Chart review of 50 patients were done, who met the criteria as asymptomatic to assess the documentation of hypoglycaemia and adherence to the guidelines.

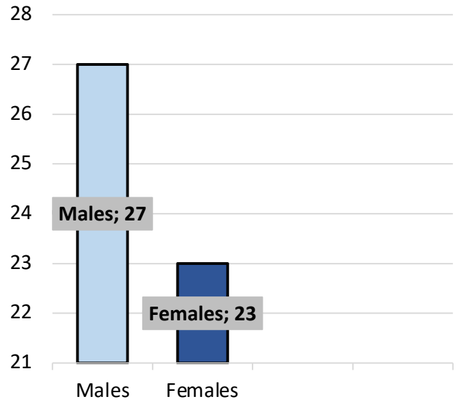

FIG.1. *Gender distribution of patients under 48 hours of age*

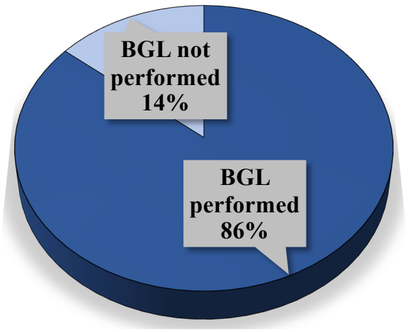

FIG.2. *Blood Glucose Level (BGL) screening & documentation in asymptomatic high risk neonates*.

RESULTS

- Among 50 patients, under 48hours of age who were included in this audit.
- (27) 54% were male and (23) 46% were female (Fig.1)
- In (43) 86% of these babies' blood glucose levels were regularly monitored and documented in the charts as per the guidelines (Fig.2)
- The remaining (7)14% of these high- risk neonates had no documentation of blood sugar levels.

CONCLUSION

The management of asymptomatic neonates born to diabetic mothers could be improved by highlighting the risks involved with hypoglycaemia. The importance of checking blood sugar levels of asymptomatic neonates born to diabetic mothers can be reemphasized by communicating this to staff through poster presentation, teaching in the departmental meeting, placing the neonatal hypoglycaemia management guideline in the maternity ward and making it easily available.