Author's response to reviews

Title: Mode of delivery and other risk factors for Escherichia coli infections in very-low birth weight infants.

Authors:

Agnieszka Chmielarczyk (aga.chmielarczyk@gmail.com)
Jadwiga Wojkowska-Mach (mbmach@cyf-kr.edu.pl)
Dorota Romaniszyn (varicella_zoster@interia.pl)
Pawel Adamski (adamski@iop.krakow.pl)
Ewa Helwich (sekretariat.neonatologii@imid.med.pl)
Ryszard Lauterbach (ryszard@lauterbach.pl)
Monika Pobiega (monika.pobiega@gmail.com)
Maria Borszewska-Kornacka (mariak@szpitalkarowa.pl)
Ewa Gulczynska (ewa.gulczynska@umed.lodz.pl)
Agnieszka Kordek (agkordek@sci.pam.szczecin.pl)
Piotr B. Heczko (mbheczko@cyf-kr.edu.pl)

Version: 4 Date: 1 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Enclosed, please find the revision version of manuscript of our work entitled: “Mode of delivery and other risk factors for Escherichia coli infections in very-low birth weight infants” by Agnieszka Chmielarczyk, Jadwiga Wójkowska-Mach, Dorota Romaniszyn, Paweł Adamski, Ewa Helwich, Ryszard Lauterbach, Monika Pobiega, Maria Borszewska-Kornacka, Ewa Gulczyńska, Agnieszka Kordek, and Piotr B. Heczko.

The aim of the study was to describe the epidemiological situation concerning Escherichia coli infections among very low birth weight neonates in Poland. The data presented in the paper should add useful knowledge about Escherichia coli infections. The study was based on a relatively large cohort and covered numerous aspects of such infections: risk factors, morbidity and mortality rates as far as antibiotic resistance of E.coli strains.

To our knowledge few data about such infections in paediatric patients is available in the European literature. The authors would also like to consider the possibility of using data on Escherichia coli infection in assessing the quality of perinatal care.

All of the named authors have read and approve the manuscript and also state that the whole submission is original/unpublished and has not been simultaneously submitted to any other journal.

The authors would like to thank to the editor for their helpful comments.

According to the editorial comments changes in the Methods section we have made are:

lines 113 to 131

Ethics

The Polish Neonatal Surveillance Network (PNSN), whose director is Prof. Ewa Helwich from the Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw, covered six Neonatal Clinics within the territory of Poland: Clinic of Neonatology and Intensive Neonatal Care, Institute of Mother and Child, Warsaw, Clinic of Neonatology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Clinic of Neonatology and Intensive Neonatal Care, Warsaw Medical University, Warsaw, Clinic of Neonatology, Polish Mothers’ Memorial Hospital-Research Institute, Lodz, Department of Neonatal Diseases,
Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin and Gynaecology and Obstetrics Hospital Medical University Poznan. The Polish Neonatal Surveillance Network was established on 6th of September 2007 (Agreement; see attachment). The Chair of Microbiology cooperated within the program of the PNSN. Utilization of data collected in the PNSN for scientific purposes was approved by the Bioethics Committee of Jagiellonian University Medical College (Chairperson Prof. Piotr Thor) – no. KBET/221/B/2011 ) on 27 October 2011 (Approval;: see attachment). All data entered into the electronic database and analysed during this study were previously anonymised and de-identified.

Study population
A prospective surveillance of infections was conducted between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2012 in five from six NICUs that participated in the activities of the PNSN.

Required documents (Agreement and Ethics Approval) have been provided as additional material files.

If I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully
Dr Agnieszka Chmielarczyk, Ph.D.