102 | 12 | 2012

Neonatology
Fetal and Neonatal Research

Editorial

126 Cochrane Review Update
Halliday, H.L. (Belfast); Speer, C.P. (Würzburg)

Review

145 Biomarkers in Neonatology: The Next Generation of Tests
Ng, P.C.; Lam, H.S. (Hong Kong)

Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

98 Neurodevelopmental Outcome of Infants Resuscitated with Air or 100% Oxygen: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
Saugstad, O.D. (Oslo); Vento, M. (Valencia); Ramji, S. (New Delhi); Howard, D.; Soll, R.F. (Burlington, Vt.)

Sources of Neonatal Medicine

89 Early Neonatal Special Care Units and Their Scientific Achievements
Obladen, M. (Berlin)

Original Papers

81 Lipopolysaccharide-Induced Chorioamnionitis Is Confined to One Amniotic Compartment in Twin Pregnant Sheep
Gantert, M. (Maastricht/Münster); Jellema, R.K.; Heineman, H. (Maastricht); Gantert, J. (Cologne); Collins, J.P.; Seehase, M.; Lambermont, V.A.C. (Maastricht); Keck, A.; Garnier, Y. (Osnabrück); Zimmermann, I.J.I. (Maastricht); Kadyrov, M. (Düsseldorf); Gavilanes, A.W.D.; Kramer, B.W. (Maastricht)

107 Effect of Postnatal Intermittent Hypoxia on Growth and Cardiovascular Regulation of Rat Pups
Pozo, M.E.; Cave, A.; Köröglu, O.A.; Litvin, D.G.; Martin, R.J.; Di Fiore, J.; Kc, P. (Cleveland, Ohio)

114 Early Skin-to-Skin Contact and Breast-Feeding Behavior in Term Neonates: A Randomized Controlled Trial

120 Moderate Unconjugated Hyperbilirubinemia Causes a Transient but Delayed Suppression of Amplitude-Integrated Electroencephalographic Activity in Preterm Infants
ter Horst, H.J.; Bos, A.E.; Duijvendijk, J.; Hulzebos, C.V. (Groningen)

130 Use of Milrinone to Treat Cardiac Dysfunction in Infants with Pulmonary Hypertension Secondary to Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia: A Review of Six Patients
Patel, N. (Melbourne, Vic.)

139 Reduction of Retinopathy of Prematurity in Extremely Low Gestational Age Newborns Treated with Recombinant Human Cu/Zn Superoxide Dismutase Parad, R.B.; Allred, E.N. (Boston, Mass.); Rosenfeld, W.N. (Mineola, N.Y.); Davis, J.M. (Boston, Mass.) and the North American rhSOD Study Group

152 A Case Series of 130 Neonates with Congenital Syphilis: Preterm Neonates Had More Clinical Evidences of Infection than Term Neonates
Zhou, Q.; Wang, L.; Chen, C.; Cao, Y.; Yan, W.; Zhou, W. (Shanghai)

(Continued on inside front cover)
157 Umbilical Artery Intima-Media and Wall Thickness in Infants of Diabetic Mothers

Commentaries

104 Meta-Analysis of Neurodevelopmental Outcome after Room Air versus 100% Oxygen Resuscitation: Generating More Questions than Answers?
Commentary on O.D. Saugstad et al.: Neurodevelopmental Outcome of Infants Resuscitated with Air or 100% Oxygen: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (Neonatology 2012;102:98–103)
Shah, P.S. (Toronto, Ont.)

137 Judgment Often Impossible without Randomized Trials
Commentary on N. Patel: Use of Milrinone to Treat Cardiac Dysfunction in Infants with Pulmonary Hypertension Secondary to Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia: A Review of Six Patients (Neonatology 2012;102:130–136)

127 Early Erythropoietin for Preventing Red Blood Cell Transfusion in Preterm and/or Low Birth Weight Infants
Soll, R.F. (Burlington, Vt.)

(Coﬁnued from front cover)
Neonatology

Fetal and Neonatal Research

Founded 1959 as 'Biologia Neonatorum' (formerly 'Etudes Néo-Natales') and continued from 1983–2006 as 'Biology of the Neonate'.


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Contents

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Georg Pfeiderer
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Contents

Introduction: Pfeiderer, G.; Battegay, M.; Lindpaintner, K.

Medical Perspectives
- Evolving Therapy and Prognosis in HIV – How Knowing One’s Medical Fate in Advance Can Change Dramatically: Battegay, M.
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Author Index
Subject Index

Modern medicine is now in a position to make advanced prognoses that chart the entire course of illness and recovery. Paradoxically, this is coupled with a new dimension of uncertainty for the patient, i.e. coming to terms with discovering they have an increased risk of a particular disease and deciding what appropriate steps to take. In this publication, renowned experts in their fields discuss these issues. The certainty and uncertainty of one’s fate are discussed from both methodological and epidemiological perspectives, using examples of diseases for which treatment and prognosis have dramatically changed. Despite profound insights into the human genome, personalized genetically tailored medicine still lies in the future. Religious, spiritual and philosophical dimensions are discussed, as are the ways in which they may help people cope with these new insights into their future, e.g. the promise of an afterlife. This publication aims to bridge the different fields dealing with this area by addressing the challenges faced and encouraging dialogue. It will be of interest to all readers who deal with ethical problems of prognosis, particularly in medicine, as well as to theologians and sociologists.