

## **A preliminary analysis of factors affecting the knowledge of parents on Neonatal Mass Screening programs**

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The neonatal mass screening programs save thousands of children from early death and severe damage to the central nervous system. Thus, of significance is the knowledge of the importance of screening and information for parents.

The objective of the paper is the evaluation of factors affecting parental knowledge of the goal and character of neonatal mass screening programs.

The study was based on the method of a diagnostic survey which included mothers staying at the Neonatology Wards in the first days after delivery. The analysis included 209 questionnaires completed in the period between January and May 2017.

Almost 80% of the subjects heard about performing neonatal mass screening tests and they acquired the knowledge from their physician (28.7%), midwife (34.9%) or the Internet (27.8%). For almost 50% of them, the knowledge was insufficient. 70% emphasized the necessity of conveying information on normal results. 80% signed the consent form for the test, but only 40.7% had received extensive information prior to signing. 49.8%

of the subjects expressed their opinion that mass screening tests should be also performed in case of diseases for which no therapies were available. A statistical correlation was also demonstrated between the above opinion and the education level of the subjects ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Conclusions:

1. Parents of newborn children are entitled to receiving honest and solid information from health care professionals.
2. The web pages on the Internet that discuss various medical problems should be verified with respect to the substantive and factual level of information they provide.

### **Speaker Biography**

Renata Bakalarz is a specialist in neonatal nursing. She is currently on the third year of PhD studies at the Jagiellonian University Collegium Medicum Faculty of Health Sciences. She works at the neonatal pathology department in the Stefan Żeromski Specialist Hospital in Krakow. Additionally, she is an academic teacher at the Andrzej Frycz-Modrzewski Krakow University, a contestant of the national and international conferences.

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