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Iatrogenic profile of newborn in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

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Iatrogenic problems are the gift of advancement in medical technology and it is defined as deleterious effects of diagnostic or therapeutic regimen producing pathology independent of the condition for which the regimen is given to sick newborn in NICU. It is an emerging problem of developing and developed countries. The prevalence varies from place to place and it depends upon the knowledge, attitude and practices of the medical and paramedical staff of the NICU. Keeping in view of the above fact this observational study w.e.f Jan 2003 to Dec 2016 was carried out in NICU of Neonatal Section of Department of Pediatrics, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh India with the objectives to determine the prevalence, spectrum and impact on immediate outcome of iatrogenic diseases in NICU. A total of 55816 babies delivered in Obstetric Department of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College AMU Aligarh of which 16396 babies were admitted to NICU for their sickness. 1446 newborn with mean age 11.5 ± 4.08 with predominance of male over female with M:F ratio of 1.07:1, delivered to unbooted, multipara through normal vaginal route in 68%, 41.63% and 56.6% respectively.

The neonatal profile of newborn who developed iatrogenic problem during the NICU stay were having in combination illness followed by respiratory distress, birth asphyxia, prematurity (Gestational age <37 weeks), septicemia, blood group incompatibility and congenital anomalies 12.9%, 18%, 18%, 13%, 12% and 7% and 6% respectively. The overall prevalence of iatrogenic problem was observed 8.81% which included predominance of intravenous cannulation injury followed by, anemia, miscellaneous, obstetric injuries, drug induced problem and surgical problems in 38.9%, 18.5%, 17.6%, 13.7%, 9.5%, and 1.9% respectively.

Conclusion: There is increase prevalence of iatrogenic disease in NICU which can be reduced considerably by vigilance of trained and skilled medical and nursing staff regarding iatrogenic problems, following strict protocol management and regular auditing of iatrogenic problems in NICU during their management.

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