EUROPAIN Survey

(EUROpean Pain Audit In Neonates) V2

European survey of sedation and analgesia practices for newborns admitted to intensive care units

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Our unit is participating in the EUROPAIN Survey

Background and rationale

• Neonates admitted to intensive care units, both neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), undergo dozens or even hundreds of painful procedures during their stay. These painful procedures include, for many of the ICU neonates, a tracheal intubation followed by mechanical ventilation. The pain and stress that are induced by mechanical ventilation as well as by repetitive procedures or painful diseases has led medical staff to use sedation and analgesia in neonates admitted to intensive care units. The subjectivity and difficulty inherent to pain measurement in neonates have probably contributed to a wide variety of neonatal sedation and analgesia practices.
• Secondary hypothesis: Non ventilated babies are not sedated.
• To date, there are no data permitting the comparison of neonatal pain management within the European countries. The availability of these data will enable comparison of practices with state-of-the-art knowledge.

Main objective

• To determine the current clinical practices regarding the use of sedative and analgesic drugs for ventilated and non ventilated newborns in different countries in Europe.

Type of study

• Epidemiological observational study.
• The EUROPAIN STUDY is observational and therefore it will not interfere with routine practices of participating units. No changes in diagnostic, therapeutic or any managing strategy of patients are imposed by the participation in this study. This epidemiological study will only collect data on clinical practices in each unit.

Inclusion criteria

• All neonates up to a corrected age of 44 weeks post conception (ventilated and non ventilated).

• That means, for example, that a baby of 40 weeks gestational age can be included up to 28 days (4 weeks) of post natal age or that a baby of 32 weeks gestational age can be included up to 12 weeks of post natal age.

Data collection

• The duration of data collection for every included infant is 28 days. However, data collection will stop before 28 days if the infant leaves the unit (discharge, death, transfer to another hospital).

• Data will be collected on individual data collection forms. These forms include demographic data, modes of respiration, continuous or intermittent sedative, analgesic or neuro-blocking drugs, pain assessment and drug withdrawal practices.

• The data collection forms will be completed by the unit nurse or physician coordinator or the person that they will designate.

• For each center, the duration of the inclusion period will be one month.

• Data will be entered on a secure web-based questionnaire.

Expected results and potential implications

• This study will also reveal the differences among countries concerning the type of analgesics and sedatives used for neonates admitted to intensive care units. Currently, we do not have these data. The neonatal network created by this study as well as the dissemination of the EUROPAIN STUDY results will allow the improvement of neonatal pain management in Europe. The availability of these data will enable comparison of practices with state-of-the-art knowledge.

The local coordinators in our center are:
Medical coordinator:

Nurse coordinator:

More information: www.europainsurvey.eu

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