

Admission hypothermia among VLBW infants in Malaysian NICUs.

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Abstract

SUMMARY:

This study aimed to determine the prevalence of admission hypothermia (AH) among very-low-birth-weight (≤ 1500 g) infants in 32 Malaysian neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). This was a retrospective analysis of prospectively collected data of all very-low-birth-weight infants admitted and a questionnaire survey of the practice of AH prevention.

Of the 3768 (99.8%) infants with admission temperature recorded, 64.8% ($n = 2440$) were hypothermic: 40.3% ($n = 983$) mildly (36.0 - 36.4°C), 58.5% ($n = 1428$) moderately (32.0 - 35.9°C) and 1.2% ($n = 29$) severely ($<32.0^{\circ}\text{C}$). Mean ambient temperature of these NICUs was 22.8°C ($\text{SD} = 2.7$, $n = 28$) in labour rooms and 20.1°C ($\text{SD} = 1.6$, $n = 30$) in operation theatres. None of the NICUs practised complete care bundle against AH at birth (i.e. use of pre-warmed radiant warmer and cling wrap, ambient temperature of at least 25°C and use of pre-warmed transport incubator).

Care bundle against neonatal hypothermia should be actively promoted in Malaysian labour rooms and operation theatres.