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°C). Mean ambient temperature of these NICUs was 22.8°C (SD = 2.7, n = 28) in labour rooms and 20.1°C (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.