

Editorjal

Special neonatal edition

Hans Van Rostenberghe, Quah Ban Seng

*Department of Paediatrics, Universiti Sains Malaysia
Department of Paediatric, Melaka Manipal College*

Foreword by Editors

For this issue, we have selected topics that are important to both neonatologists and general practitioners. The topics cover a wide range of diseases and organ systems but the focus is on common problems in the neonatal intensive care unit.

For quite a while erythromycin has been used in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for other reasons than its antibiotic properties. Professor Ng PC of the Chinese University of Hong Kong has done some of the ground breaking research on the use of erythromycin as a gastrokinetic drug for preterm babies. He, together with Dr King Woon So, has authored a review and update on this important practice.

Neonatal jaundice is still among the most common problems encountered by the neonatologists and paediatricians. Professor Thor Willy Ruud Hansen of the Oslo University has a vast experience in researching innovative ways to treat neonatal jaundice and to improve the cost effectiveness of current methods. Together with his co-worker, Marie Andersen Erlandsen, he has authored a review on the most up-to-date treatment modalities of neonatal jaundice and some promising future developments.

The editor and co-editor have also made a contribution to this special issue of the EJM on

neonatology in an article which discusses some issues of evidence-based practice in the NICU.

Necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) is still a very much feared complication in sick neonates. Associate Professor Dr. Sanjay Patole is one of the leading experts on this topic in the world and he, together with his co-worker Dr Girish Deshpande, wrote a review article on the role of probiotics in the prevention of NEC.

It is a bit surprising that the pathogenesis of neonatal jaundice has only recently been the subject of intensive research, and new insights in the molecular mechanism of neonatal jaundice have surfaced. Professor Nishio from Kobe University in Japan is an authority in this field and has, together with his co-workers, provided a comprehensive overview of the latest developments.

We have also included a review on antibiotic use in the NICU, written by Professor Jacqueline Ho, a Malaysia based neonatologist. A review on the treatment of persistent ductus arteriosus in preterm babies has been written by paediatric cardiologist, Associate Professor Rahim Wong and co-authors. Finally there is also a review on human milk sharing written by Associate Professor Dr. Noraida Ramli, and co-authors who are also Malaysia-based experts in the field.

It is strongly anticipated that readers of this special issue will find the information presented useful and that this issue will contribute to optimal patient care in NICUs worldwide.

Hans Van Rostenberghe, Guest editor.
Ban Seng Quah, Co-editor.

Correspondence: Department of Paediatrics

Universiti Sains Malaysia

Jalan Raja Perempuan Zainab II

16150 Kubang Kerian Kelantan

Malaysia

Tel: ++60 9 7673000

Fax: ++60 9 7653370

E-mail: hansvr@kb.usm.my (Hans Van Rostenberghe) and
bansengquah@mail.com (Quah Ban Seng)