Medical care & clinical practice

Hypoglycaemia in at risk term infants


Statement of the standard

Measures are taken to identify, prevent, and manage hypoglycaemia in newborn infants who are at risk for impaired metabolic adaptation within the first 72 hours of life, including those with prolonged fetal distress, growth restriction, maternal diabetes, asphyxia, maternal beta-blocker medication.

Benefits

Short-term benefits:
• Reduced exposure to potentially harmful hypoglycaemia in at risk infants
• Reduced unnecessary investigations and interventions
• Minimised separation of mother and infant
• Increased rate of diagnoses of infants with hypoglycaemic disorders before discharge

Long-term benefits:
• Improved neurologic outcome

For parents and family

• Parents are informed by healthcare professionals about the importance of early energy provision and blood glucose monitoring.

For neonatal unit

• A unit guideline on identification, prevention, and management of hypoglycaemia is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
• Training on identification, prevention, and management of hypoglycaemia is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.
• Risk factors for hypoglycaemia are identified at birth, and within the first days of life according to the clinical situation.
• An early feed, within one hour, is provided.
• Thermal care, ideally given by skin-to-skin positioning, is provided.
• Blood glucose is measured at predetermined times.
• Observation of well-being and feeding documentation is conducted.
• Interventions are administered according to operational thresholds approach.

For hospital

• Training on identification, prevention, and management of hypoglycaemia is ensured.
• Equipment suitable for immediate and reliable blood glucose measurements is provided.
• Training in awareness of the limitations of the devices used for blood glucose monitoring is ensured.

For health service

• A national guideline based on an operational threshold approach using values advocated by professional bodies is available and regularly updated.

Here you can access the full standard: https://newborn-health-standards.org/hypoglycaemia-in-at-risk-term-infants/