

The Relationship of Feeding Problems to Weight Difference in Acyanotic and Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (1997)

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

This study sought to determine the incidence of feeding problems among infants with Congenital Heart Defect admitted at the Pediatric ICU of the Philippine Heart Center, between August to October 1997. The study focused on poor suck, vomiting, presence of residuals in NGT/OGT, abdominal distention, and gastro-esophageal reflux. It also sought to find a relationship between these feeding problems and weight difference (a value derived by subtracting the actual body weight from the ideal body weight). Other patient characteristics such as age, sex and weight were tested against weight difference.

METHOD:

A survey checklist was used by PICU nurses in charge of the patient for the day in order to obtain data from 40 samples. The checklist was completed within a twelve-hour shift for each sample.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study showed that 24/40 (60%) have poor suck, vomiting 3/40 (7.5%), presence of residuals in NGT/OGT 8/40 (20%), abdominal distention 2/40 (5%) and gastro-esophageal reflux 3/40 (7.5%). In this study, the population profile is as follows: less than six months of age 75% or 30/40 and above six months old, 25% or 10/40. Males dominated the females at 60% to 40% respectively. Cyanotic samples comprise 60% compared with 40% of the Acyanotic Type. The weight difference distribution showed that 28/40 (70%) have actual body weights below their ideal body weights and 10/40 (25%) have actual body weights higher than the ideal body weight.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION:

Statistically, all correlation proved non-significant. Since poor suck is the most common feeding problem among infants with CHD, the researchers recommend active interventions on the part of the nurse in terms of proper referral and coordination. The importance of health teaching is also emphasized not only in the hospital but also in the community setting.