of answers were found to fall under 3 groups : 500g-1000g, 1500g-2000g & 32-34wks.

Conclusions:

1. Comparing the ET placement in CXRs between gestation and weight, this study showed that gestation was more accurate.
2. The knowledge of correct ET size & placement needs improvement.
3. We suggest table of ET size and length against gestation and weight should be easily accessible.

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CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA ASSOCIATED WITH ESOPHAGEAL ATRESIA: A CHALLENGING COMBINATION FOR THE NEONATOLOGIST AND THE PEDIATRIC SURGEON

S. Apostolidou¹, K. Reinshagen², K. Zahn², S. Hien¹, L.M. Wessel², T. Schaible¹

¹Neonatology, ²Pediatric Surgery, University Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

Introduction: Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) together with esophageal atresia (EA) are associated with different malformations in up to 71%. In epidemiologic studies the prevalence of CDH was 0.13 , of EA 0.27, of both combined 0.005 per 1000 births.

Patients: In our single institution center for CDH we treated 425 CDH patients. Associated malformations occurred in 39.5%, left sided hernia in 81.6%, right sided hernia in 16.1%, both sided in 2.3% of all patients. 5 patients suffered from EA together with CDH.

Results: Of the patients treated since 1996 we had 5 patients with CDH and EA. One patient had a trisomy 18, one patient had severe lung hypoplasia, both died soon after birth. Chronic lung disease led to death at the age of three years in one patient. Two patients survived. Ventilation and perfusion difficulties of hypoplastic lungs occurred in every patient due to the tracheoesophageal fistula. In all patients except the trisomy 18 patient we closed the tracheoesophageal fistula quickly after birth. We preferred temporary banding of the distal esophagus and early closure of the diaphragmatic defect from an abdominal access. In one case a severe hypoxemia

occurred directly after operation. We decided to withdraw an ECMO rescue treatment. Esophageal atresia was reconstructed by thoracotomy in a later stage.

Conclusion: The combination of EA and CDH is a challenging interdisciplinary problem. The high mortality is due to the combination of these malformations. Rescue treatment by ECMO has to be discussed because there exists a high risk of later pulmonary morbidity.

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LUNG FUNCTION IN HYPEROXIA EXPERIMENTAL MODEL OF NEWBORN RATS

P. Chimenti Camacho¹, E. Maderuelo Rodríguez¹, E. Sanz López¹, J.M. Zubeldia Ortuño², M. Sánchez Luna¹

¹Neonatology, ²Allergy, HGU Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain

Background and aims: Study of lung function in an experimental model of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) induced by hyperoxia in newborn rats.

Methods: The subjects of this study were two litters of Sprague-Dawley rats. Group C (Control): exposure to room air. Group H (Hyperoxia): exposure to 60% of Oxygen from birth and during 14 days. The lung function tests were performed on day 15. Respiratory functional evaluation through a system of total body plethysmography (Buxco Electronics, Troy, NY, USA): non-invasive analysis system, with the animal conscious and free, housed in a sealed container. Changes of pressure and volume in the cabin due to respiratory movements are monitored and used to calculate ventilatory parameters using a computer application.

Results: Two litters with 14 offspring each were studied. Pulmonary function tests showed a decrease in tidal volume (H: 0.098 ml, C: 0.125 ml, p 0,000) with offsetting increase in respiratory rate (H: 310 rpm; C: 266 rpm; p 0,03) without differences in minute volume (H: 29.92 ml / min, C: 32.75 ml / min; p 0,186). The index of airway obstruction (Penh) is altered in the litter exposed to oxygen (p 0, 026).

Conclusions:

- Validation of an experimental model of hyperoxia (DBP) in newborn rats.