

## AN AUDIT OF MANAGEMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2007 EUROPEAN CONSENSUS GUIDELINES

A. Ahmad Kamar<sup>1,2</sup>, L. Machen<sup>2</sup>, D.M. Sheridan-Pereira<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rotunda Hospital, <sup>2</sup>Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

**Background and aims:** To audit compliance and variation in management of neonatal respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) in an era post publication of the 2007 European Consensus Guidelines.

**Methodology:** Retrospective review of inborn preterms less than (<) 37 weeks with RDS for the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

**Results:** Of 197 infants, 29(14.72%) infants were < 27 weeks, 31(15.74%) between 27 to < 30 weeks, 91(46.19%) between 30 to < 34 weeks, and 46(23.35%) between 34 to < 37 weeks. All infants < 27 weeks received surfactant, administered before 15mins in 28 of 29 infants. 80.65% infants in the 27 to < 30 weeks age group received surfactant, in comparison to 37.36% of infants between 30 to < 34 weeks, and 15.22% infants between 34 to < 37 weeks. Prophylactic surfactant was administered in 58% of infants between 27 to < 30 weeks age group. This did not correlate with the use or non-use of prenatal steroids. Only 1 of 29 infants < 27 weeks was immediately extubated post-surfactant. Timing of surfactant re-dosing was variable and initiated at a higher mean FiO<sub>2</sub> 66% and alveolar-arterial ratio 0.14 in prophylaxed infants < 27 weeks compared to rescue/re-dosing surfactant at mean FiO<sub>2</sub> 48% in infants between 27 to < 30 weeks.

**Conclusions:** Overall compliance was achieved in prophylactic surfactant administration in infants < 27 weeks. For babies more than 27 weeks, significant variation was demonstrated in management strategies. This practice variation prompts generation of a unit policy of when to intervene with progression of RDS.