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٢٠٠٩

**IBUPROFEN VERSUS INDOMETHACIN IN
EARLY TREATMENT OF PDA IN VERY LOW
BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS**

Thesis

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of
Master Degree in Pediatrics

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Dedication

To my Father and Mother
who supported me in my
whole life

Acknowledgment

First and foremost, thanks are all to
"ALLAH".

Moreover I would like to express my sincere and profound gratitude to professor Doctor/Adham Mohamed Hegazy, professor of pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for this meticulous supervision, loyal encouragement and valuable advises throughout the work.

I am also grateful to Doctor /Maha Hassan Mohamed, Lecturer of pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for her unique effort, continuous guidance, assistance and knowledge she offered me throughout the performance of this work.

My special thanks for Doctor/Hala Gaber El Rabei, for her support, guidance and for dedicating mush of her time to accomplish this work.

Also I should not forget to express my great thanks to the NICU, Maternity Hospital. Whom I work with and they all give me their advice, assistant and support.

Last but not least, I convey my thanks to my patients, their parents and to anyone who helped me to complete this work.

CONTENTS

Title	Page No.
List of Abbreviations	
List of Tables	i
List of Figures.....	iii
Introduction.....	١
Aim of the work.....	٣
Review of Literature	
• Fetal and neonatal circulation.....	٤
• Patent ductus arteriosus	٩
• Normal postnatal closure	١١
• Delayed closure in term infants	١٨
• Diagnosis of patent ductus arteriosus	٣٠
• Complications of patent ductus arteriosus	٥٠
• Management of patent ductus arteriosus	٥١
Subjects and methods	٧٥
Results.....	٨٨
Discussion.....	١٢١
Summary and conclusion.....	١٣٥
Conclusion	١٤٠
Recommendations.....	١٤١
References.....	١٤٢
Arabic Summary	—

LIST OF TABLES

Tab. No.	Title	Page No.
Table (١):	Dose of indomethacin related to age is as follows (mg/kg)	٦٢
Table (٢):	Comparison between group I and group II as regards some quantitative data.....	٨٨
Table (٣):	Comparison between group I and group II as regards some qualitative data.....	٨٩
Table (٤):	Comparison between group I and group II as regards need for prolonged resuscitation at delivery.	٩٢
Table (٥):	Comparison between group I and group II as regards risk factors for prematurity.	٩٣
Table (٦):	Comparison between group I and group II as regards medical problems.	٩٤
Table (٧):	Comparison between group I and II as regards clinical presentation of PDA.....	٩٥
Table (٨):	Comparison between the two groups (I,II) as regards some echocardiographic findings	٩٦
Table (٩):	Comparison between group I and group II before treatment.	٩٧
Table (١٠):	Comparison between the two groups as regards efficacy of treatment	٩٨
Table (١١):	Comparison between the two groups as regards PDA closure following doses of first course of treatment.	١٠٠
Table (١٢):	Comparison between urine output & laboratory markers before and after treatment in Indomethacin group:.....	١٠١

LIST OF TABLES (Cont...)

Tab. No.	Title	Page No.
Table (١٣):	Comparison between urine output & laboratory markers before and after treatment in Ibuprofen group:.....	١٠٦
Table (١٤):	Comparison between group I and group II after treatment.....	١٠٩
Table (١٥):	Comparison between group I and group II regarding early complications (within ٧ days).....	١١٣
Table (١٦):	Comparison between the two groups regarding late complications (from the ٨ th day to ٣ months).....	١١٥

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (١):	Fetal circulation.....	٥
Figure (٢):	Anatomy of PDA.....	٩
Figure (٣):	The four stages in the development of the ductus	٢٣
Figure (٤):	Developmental factors affecting the hemodynamics of the PDA	٣٠
Figure (٥):	Echocardiography of the PDA. The ductus can be well visualized from the left parasternal area	٤٢
Figure (٦):	Structure formula of indomethacin	٥٥
Figure (٧):	Biosynthesis of prostaglandins and thromboxanes via the cyclooxygenase pathway	٥٦
Figure (٨):	Management of PDA in preterm neonates	٦٦
Figure (٩):	Structure formula of ibuprofen.....	٦٧
Figure (١٠):	Closure of a PDA by coil catheterization.	٧١
Figure (١١):	Sex distribution in group ١	٩٠
Figure (١٢):	Sex distribution in group II	٩٠
Figure (١٣):	Mode of delivery in group I	٩١
Figure (١٤):	Mode of delivery in group II.....	٩١
Figure (١٥):	PDA closure after first course in both groups.....	٩٩
Figure (١٦):	Urine output before and after treatment in indomethacin group.....	١٠٢
Figure (١٧):	Total leucocytic count & neutrophil count ($\times 10^3/mm^3$) before and after treatment in indomethacin group.....	١٠٢

LIST OF FIGURES (Cont...)

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (١٨):	Platelet count ($\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$) before and after treatment in indomethacin group.	١٠٣
Figure (١٩):	Creatinine level before and after treatment in indomethacin group.....	١٠٤
Figure (٢٠):	BUN before and after treatment in indomethacin group.....	١٠٤
Figure (٢١):	Prothrombin and partial thromboplastin time before and after treatment in indomethacin group	١٠٥
Figure (٢٢):	Neutrophil count ($\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$) before and after treatment in ibuprofen group	١٠٧
Figure (٢٣):	Creatinine level before and after treatment in ibuprofen group	١٠٧
Figure (٢٤):	BUN before and after treatment in ibuprofen group	١٠٨
Figure (٢٥):	Partial thromboplastin time before and after treatment in ibuprofen group.....	١٠٩
Figure (٢٦):	Total leucocytic count ($\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$) after treatment in both groups.....	١١١
Figure (٢٧):	Urine output after treatment in both groups	١١١
Figure (٢٨):	Platelet count ($\times 10^3/\text{mm}^3$) after treatment in both groups.....	١١١
Figure (٢٩):	Creatinine level after treatment in both groups.....	١١٢
Figure (٣٠):	Partial thromboplastin time after treatment in both groups.....	١١٢
Figure (٣١):	GIT bleeding after treatment in both groups.....	١١٤
Figure (٣٢):	Oliguria after treatment in both groups	١١٥

LIST OF FIGURES (Cont...)

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (၃၃):	Mortality among indomethacin Group.....	၁၁၆
Figure (၃၄):	Mortality among ibuprofen group.....	၁၁၇
Figure (၃၅):	Continuous wave Doppler tracing from the subcostal four chamber view of an infant with tricuspid regurgitation for calculating pulmonary artery systolic pressure.....	၁၁၇
Figure (၃၆):	M-mode echocardiogram of the aorta at the level of the valve leaflets demonstrating the techniques used to measure the aortic and the left atrial dimension.....	၁၁၈
Figure (၃၇):	Doppler color flow examination from the parasternal short axis view of an infant with a PDA.....	၁၁၈
Figure (၃၈):	Left parasternal short axis view of an infant with a PDA.....	၁၁၉
Figure (၃၉):	Continuous wave Doppler tracing from the parasternal location of an infant with a PDA.	၁၂၀

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbrev.	Meaning
ΔP	: Pressure gradient
∇D	: Two dimensional
Cox	: Cyclo-oxygenase
Cox- ∇	: Cyclo-oxygenase- ∇ enzyme
Cox- ∇	: Cyclo-oxygenase- ∇ enzyme
CPAP	: Continuous positive air way pressure
CTG	: Cardiotocography
DA	: Ductus arteriosus
ECG	: Electrocardiogram
Echo	: Echocardiography
EDV	: End-diastolic volume
EF	: Ejection fraction
ESV	: End-systolic volume
GI	: Gastrointestinal
GIT	: Gastrointestinal tract
Hct	: Hematocrite
IPPV	: Intermittent positive pressure ventilation
IVH	: Intraventricular hemorrhage
LA	: Left atrium
LA-AO	: Left atrial to aortic root ratio
LV	: Left ventricle
NCPAP	: Nasal continuous positive air way pressure
NEC	: Necrotizing enterocolitis
NICU	: Neonatal intensive care unit
PA	: Pulmonary artery
PDA	: Patent ductus arteriosus
PEEP	: Positive end expiratory pressure
PG	: Prostaglandin
PT	: Prothrombin time
PTT	: Partial thromboplastin time
TxA ∇	: Thromboxane A ∇
VSD	: Ventricular septal defect

INTRODUCTION

The ductus arteriosus is derived from the sixth aortic arch and normally extends from the main or left pulmonary artery to the descending aorta just distal to the origin of the left subclavian artery. Normally in full term neonates, it closes within several days of birth (**Ewert, 1999**).

Functional closure of the ductus arteriosus occurs by constriction of the medial smooth muscle in the ductus within 10 to 15 hours after birth. Anatomic closure is completed by two to three weeks of age by permanent changes in the endothelium and subintimal layers of the ductus (**Carey, 1998**).

Oxygen, prostaglandins E₂ levels and maturity of the newborn are important factors in closure of the ductus (**Ivey and Srivastava, 1997**).

A postnatal increase in oxygen saturation of the systemic circulation (from PO₂ of 30 mmHg in utero to 80 mmHg after lung expansion is the strongest stimulus for constriction of the ductal smooth muscle which leads to closure of the ductus (**Riggst et al., 1999**).

The responsiveness of the ductal smooth muscle to oxygen is related to gestational age of the newborn. Important problems that premature infants may face is that

the ductus arteriosus is more likely to remain open as preterm infant's ductal smooth muscle layer doesnot have a fully developed constrictor response to oxygen .Clinical evidence of patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) appears approximately in 31% in infants whose birth weight between 500-1000 gm (**Poon, 2007**).

Indomethacin and more recently ibuprofen have been used to treat hemodynamically significant PDA in preterm infants. Both are cyclo-oxygenase blockers, but seem to have different influence on regional circulation (**Lago et al., 2007**).

Administration of three doses of ibuprofen intravenously within 3 hours after birth in preterm neonates reduced the incidence of PDA without causing notably early adverse reactions (**Varvarigou et al., 1997**).

Adverse events associated with both drugs include bleeding, skin lesion as irritation, hypoglycemia, adrenal insufficiency and respiratory failure. Intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH) and renal insufficiency have been reported (**Poon, 2007**).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the study is to determine the safety and efficacy of oral ibuprofen compared with intravenous indomethacin in the prevention and treatment of PDA in premature babies born under ٣٢ weeks gestation with birth weight less than ١٢٥٠ gm.

FETAL AND NEONATAL CIRCULATION

Fetal circulation:

Fetal circulation differs from adult circulation in several ways. Almost all differences are attributable to the fundamental difference in the site of gas exchange. In the adult, gas exchange occurs in the lungs. In the fetus, the placenta provides the exchange of gases and nutrients (*Park, १००७*).

In the fetus, the most highly oxygenated blood returns via the umbilical vein, ductus venosus and inferior vena cava. The majority of this blood passes across the foramen ovale into left atrium and then through the left ventricle to the descending aorta. Almost all of the superior vena cava return passes through the right atrium and through the tricuspid valve to the right ventricle and main pulmonary trunk. Because of the high pulmonary vascular resistance in the fetus, only a small proportion of this blood passes to lungs, most traversing the ductus arteriosus to reach the ascending aorta. As a result of this arrangement the more highly oxygenated blood is directed to the coronary arteries and the arteries supplying the brain. Blood with the lowest oxygen content passes from the descending aorta to placenta via the paired umbilical arteries which arise from the internal iliac arteries (*Leonard, १००७*).

Unlike the adult heart which increases its stroke volume when the heart rate decreases, the fetal heart is unable to increase stroke volume when the heart rate falls because it has a low compliance. Therefore the fetal cardiac output depends on the heart rate; when the heart rate drops, as in fetal distress, a serious fall in cardiac output results (*Park, 2004*). Fetal circulation is illustrated in figure (1).

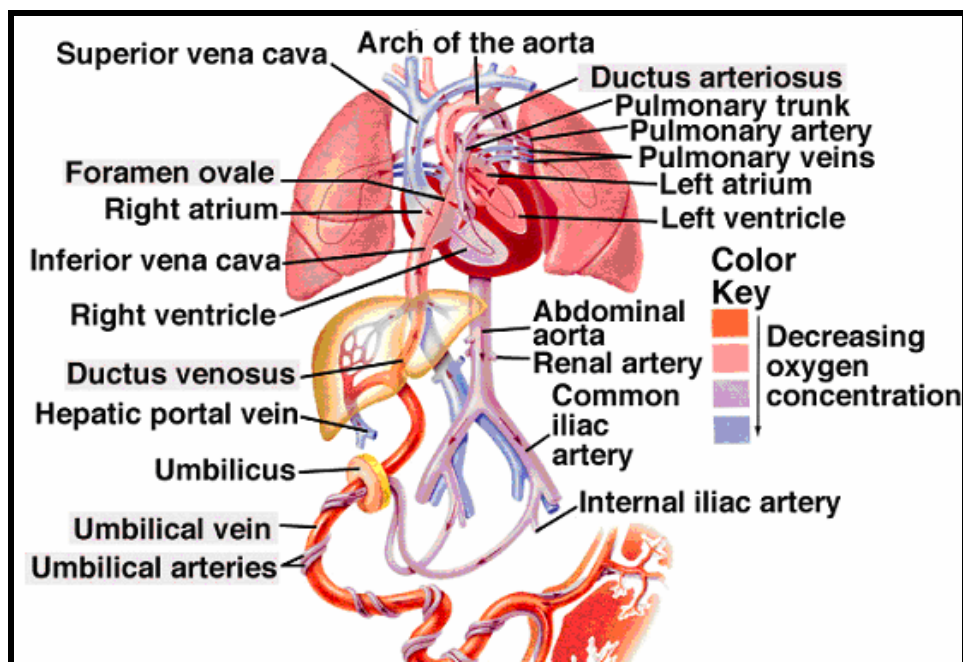


Figure (1): Fetal circulation (*Leonard, 2004*)

Organ blood flow within the fetus is dependant upon vascular resistance of that organ. Because of the widely patent ductus arteriosus both ventricles eject blood against effectively the same total vascular resistance. In the normal fetal heart the right ventricle ejects about 70% of the combined ventricular output while the left ventricle ejects 30% (*Leonard, 2004*).
