کارکاه‌های آموزشی مرکز اطلاعات علمی جهاد دانشگاهی

کارکاه آنلاین
کاربرد نرم افزار SPSS در پژوهش

کارکاه آنلاین
اصول تنظیم قراردادها

کارکاه آنلاین
پروپوزال نویسی
Survival Rate of Low and Very Low Birth Weight Neonates in an Iranian Community

*R Vazirinejad1, N Masoodpour2, A Puyanfar1

1 Dept. of Social Medicine, School of Medicine, Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, Rafsanjan, Iran
2 Dept. of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, Rafsanjan, Iran

(Received 28 Mar 2011; accepted 12 Oct 2011)

Abstract

Background: This study aimed to assess the incidence and survival rates of neonates weighing less than 2500g for duration of the first 28 days in an Iranian community.

Methods: In this prospective longitudinal study, all neonates with birth weight less than 2500g were selected from the list of all neonates born in the only public-sector referral hospital, for a six months period. The weight of neonates at birth along with some demographic variables was recorded on a checklist. A cohort of neonates with birth weight less than 2500g were followed for 28 days. Mortality within 28 days of birth was used as end point. Continuous variables were summarized using mean and 95% confidence intervals, while categorical variables were presented as ratios and percentages.

Results: About 1750 neonates were born of which 168 neonates with birth weights less than 2500g were recorded giving a proportion of 9.6%. Of 168 neonates, 21 (12.5%) had very low birth weights (VLBW) (birth weights<1500g). Survival rates for the groups of LBW (1500<birth weights<2500g) and VLBW neonates were 98.4% and 66.6%, respectively. Regression analysis showed birth weight has, unsurprisingly, the most effect (beta= 0.501) on the survival rate among variables studied in this research.

Conclusion: The survival rate among VLBW births in our study is dramatically low (66.6%). Not only attempts must be made to reduce the incidence and prevalence of this problem but also we need to work on the related factors of neonates’ survival rate in this community.

Keywords: Low birth weights, Survival rate, Neonates, Iran

Introduction

Up to 22.5% of neonates are born with low birth weight (LBW), worldwide (1) and the effect of LBW on individuals’ health in forthcoming years is also documented (2-5). This means, in some communities, remarkable proportion (about a quarter) of infants at birth need special medical care to catch their normal growth up.

Advances in prenatal and neonatal care have increased the survival of both extremely low birth weight (6) and very-low-birth-weight infants (VLBW) (7), in many populations in particular developed communities. However, still a lack of investigation exists even in some developed countries to address survival of very low birth weight infants (8).

Many factors are responsible for the birth of neonates with low birth weigh. In a recent study conducted to measure the prevalence and risk factors of LBW in an Iranian community in southern areas of the country, the overall prevalence of LBW was 11.8% (95% CI: 9.9%-13.7%), similar for boys and girls (11.1% and 12.6% respectively). In this study, LBW was significantly associated with mother's ethnic ori-
gin, birth interval < 3 years, twin birth, no use of supplements during pregnancy, prenatal care visits, no education, younger age and presence of maternal disease (9). On the other hand, the negative effect of LBW on cognitive, behavioral status, health status, and even academic achievement of LBW infants in forthcoming years of their life has been known (10). These results show the broad spectrum of factors which can affect (and be affected by) the weight of neonates at birth (11). No doubt that these factors differ from one to another community affected by economic, social and cultural settings. These differences make it necessary to study more effective factors in a given community.

As long as attempts are being made to control determinant factors for reducing the incidence of low birth weight in communities, efforts are also important to improve the survival rates of neonates born with birth weight less than 2500g (12). However, Wilson-Costello and colleagues concluded from their investigation that the improved survival rates of extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants in the 1990s was accompanied with an increased risk of significant neurodevelopment impairment (6).

In our study we sought to assess the incidence and survival rates of infants weighing less than 2500gr for duration of 28 days in an Iranian community, Southeast of Iran.

**Material and Methods**

This was a prospective longitudinal study. All neonates who were born in the main Maternal Hospital of Rafsanjan (Niknafs Hospital), the only public-sector referral hospital, affiliated (12) to the Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences, for a six months period between 1st January 2007 and 30th Jun 2007 were checked and all neonates with birth weight less than 2500g were recruited for the study. Neonates were LBW if their birth weight was less than 2500g (including VLBW and ELBW).

To understand the mortality or survival of recruited infants, all LBW (<2500g) neonates born in the hospitals were recorded and followed through health centers of the county. All people living in the county are registered in health centers. Health centre physicians were invited to help with the process of data collection. Trained physicians were requested to answer the items on the study checklist using maternal medical files as well as interviewing mothers. Pregnancy and delivery data were collected soon after birth.

The weight of neonates at birth were recorded on the checklist as well as some demographic variables such as gender, birth order, mother’s age, mother’s educational status, mother’s job and living place (urban/rural). Trained physicians also weighted neonates at birth and recorded the data on the checklist. Scales used for weighting neonates were all calibrated before each time use.

Those neonates with birth weight less than 2500g were followed for their neonatal duration (until 28th day of their life) wherever they have been; in hospital or at home. Therefore, there was a cohort of neonates with birth weight less than 2500g including those who were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital and were followed up for 28 days. In order to be in the cohort, a neonate had to have a gestational age of more than 25 weeks, and be free of congenital anomalies. Mortality within 28 days of birth was used as end point.

Data were analyzed using SPSS. Continuous variables were summarized using mean and 95% confidence intervals, while categorical variables were presented as ratios and percentages.

Cross-tabulations of categorical variables with survival were produced and statistical associations between these categorical variables and survival outcome were measured using Chi-Square test. Normally distributed continuous variables were compared using the independent t-test and the Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare discrete variables and those continuous variables that were not normally distributed. Those variables which were supposed to have
interaction effect on neonates’ survival were entered into a multiple regression model.

Results

Totally, 1750 neonates were born of which 168 neonates with birth weights less than 2500g were recorded giving a proportion of 9.6% of all births. Of 168 neonates with birth weights less than 2500g, 21 (12.5%) had birth weights less than 1500 gr as VLBW. One hundred forty seven neonates were recorded with a birth weight between 1500-2500 grams (LBW).

The frequency distribution of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g based on their weights and gender is presented in Table 1. Mean birth weights of boys and girls were 2089.1±445.9 (Min= 750, Max= 2490) and 2063.8±456.3 (Min= 590, Max=2490), respectively. There was no significant difference between the mean weights of boys and girls.

Survival rate of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g for the first 28 days of their life (neonatal life) was 94.6%. In other words, more than 5% of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g were deceased before the end of their neonatal life.

Table 2 shows the proportion of those who were alive at the end of their neonatal life in the two groups of boys and girls. There was no significant difference between the proportion of those who were alive at the end of their neonatal life among boys and girls.

Table 3 shows the proportion of those who were alive at the end of their neonatal life in the two groups of neonates with LBW and VLBW. As the table shows, 33.3% (n=7, 95%CI= 53.4%-13.2%) of VLBW neonates were deceased before the end of their neonatal life. Whereas this proportion among LBW neonates was 1.6% (n=2, 95%CI= 0-3.63%) which was significantly smaller than this proportion among VLBW neonates (Chi Square=37.0, df=1, P<0.001). In other words, survival rates for the groups of LBW and VLBW neonates were 98.4% and 66.6%, respectively.

Mann Whitney U test showed that mean weight of neonates who were deceased during their neonatal life (1126.7± 431.1) was significantly lower than this mean for neonates who were not deceased (2127.2 ± 389.5) in this duration (Z= 4.4, P<0.001).

Mother age, mothers’ job and mothers living place were also compared between the two groups of alive and deceased neonates. There was no significant difference between the mean of mothers age of alive (27.6 ± 5.5 years) and deceased (28.1 ± 6.3 years) neonates.

Living place and the job of mothers of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g in the two groups of alive and deceased neonates are presented in Table 4. There was no significant difference of living place and mothers’ job between the two groups of alive and deceased neonates.

Regression analysis showed that neonates birth weight has, unsurprisingly, the most effect (beta= 0.501) on the survival rate of neonates among variables studied in this research. The model showed that 0.511 of the variations in survival rate depends on neonates’ weight, whereas only 0.117 of survival variations depended on the other variables (i.e. Mother age, mother’s job, mothers living place, mother’s education status, birth order and neonates gender). The odds ratio for death among neonates with birth weight <1500 grams was 4.1 (95% CI 1.2 to 13.9) compared to neonates with birth weight between 1500 and 2500g.
Table 1: The frequency distribution of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g based on their weights and gender

| Weights | Boy n (%) | Girl n (%) | Total n (%) |
|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| LBW     | 57 (87.7) | 90 (87.4)  | 147 (87.5)  |
| VLBW    | 8 (12.3)  | 13 (12.6)  | 21 (12.5)   |
| Total   | 65 (100)  | 103 (100)  | 168 (100)   |

*- LBW: Birth weights between 1499 and 2500g., VLBW: Birth weights less than 1500g

Table 2: The frequency distribution of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g based on their survival and gender

| Alive | Boy n (%) | Girl n (%) | Total n (%) |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Yes   | 61 (93.8) | 98 (95.1)  | 159 (94.6)  |
| No    | 4 (6.2)   | 5 (4.9)    | 9 (5.4)     |
| Total | 65 (100)  | 103 (100)  | 168 (100)   |

Table 3: The frequency distribution of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g based on their survival and the level of their birth weights

| Weights | Alive n (%) | Deceased n (%) | Total n (%) |
|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| LBW     | 145 (98.6)  | 2 (1.6)        | 147 (100)   |
| VLBW    | 14 (66.6)   | 7 (33.3)       | 21 (100)    |
| Total   | 159 (94.6)  | 103 (5.4)      | 168 (100)   |

*- LBW: Birth weights between 1499 and 2500g., VLBW: Birth weights less than 1500g

Table 4: The frequency distribution of neonates with birth weights less than 2500g based on their survival, living place and mothers’ job

| Survival | Residency | Mother’s job | Total n (%) |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
|          | Urban n (%) | Rural n (%) | Working n (%) | Not working n | |
| Alive    | 77 (92.8)  | 82 (96.5)   | 128 (44.1)  | 31 (96.9)      |
| Deceased | 6 (7.2)    | 3 (3.5)     | 8 (5.9)     | 1 (3.1)        |
| Total    | 83 (100)   | 85 (100)    | 136 (100)   | 32 (100)       | 168 (100) |
The results showed that the incidence of LBW and VLBW births in the study community is one of the highest incidence rates comparing to some developing (13, 14) and developed (15, 16) countries, worldwide. Although Incidence rate of birth weights less than 2500g in our study (9.6%) is lower than what is reported by Roudbari and colleagues (11.8%) for a Southern province of Iran (Zahedan) (9), the difference is not statistically significant. Delivery of births with weight less than 2500g is a major problem for a big proportion of all communities (1). Not only attempts must be made to reduce the incidence and prevalence of this problem but also we need to work on the survival rates of infants with this deficit. For this purpose, the related factors of survival rate among human communities should be studied.

This research provides neonatal survival rates in an Iranian community in southeast, Iran. The overall neonatal survival rate was 94.6% for neonates who were born with birth weights less than 2500g. Although this survival rate seems reasonable but the survival rate among VLBW births in our study is dramatically low (66.6%) compared to what is reported by others (17). Seven out of 21 VLBW neonates were deceased before the 28th day of their life. Comparing to the survival rate of VLBW infants in some other Asian countries, the survival rate among our neonates is less than what is reported for Taiwan (1998, 78.4%), Thailand (2003, 81%), Turkey (2002, 84%) and Malaysia (2003, 81.6%) (17). However, according to what is reported by this author and colleagues, the survival rate of VLBW neonates in India (63%, year of publication=2008) is less than this survival rate obtained in our study. In comparison with what is reported earlier (17) (73%), the survival rate of VLBW infants born in the location of our study is lower than the global average. This result indicates that resources should be channeled in order to improve survival of VLBW infants in our community in Southeast, Iran. The importance of existence of some services such as mechanical ventilation is highlighted (18). Mean birth weight of VLBW infants in our study was 1099±265.3 (range, 590-1460) which is less than this mean reported by Tsou in Taiwan (mean birth weight= 1133g. (range, 368-1,500) (7). The overall survival rate of the VLBW infants in Tsou study was 76.2% (7) which is higher than this rate calculated in our study (66.6%, 2010). Although, it could be assumed that this discrepancy is due to lower mean birth weight among neonates born in our region comparing to this mean among Taiwan Infants, it is not possible to ignore the role of health care systems in this difference. More investigation is needed to detect the possible effect of both known and unknown variables in this region.

The results of multivariate logistic regression in our study showed that among variables entered into the model included birth weight, neonate’s gender, birth order; mother’s living place, mothers’ age and mothers’ job, birth weight was the most effective factor to determine the survival rate. Gestational age was not included in the model as it was highly correlated with birth weight. None of the remaining variables showed significant effect on neonates’ survival rate in our study. neonates’ gender, which was one of the predictors of neonates’ survival rate in Ballot and colleague study, was not significant predictor in our study (17).

Although more than 50% (R=0.511) of mortality variation was defined by birth weight on neonates, only about 10% (R= 0.117) of this variation was related to other variables. This result shows that there must be some other variables affecting the mortality of neonates in our research. These variables are studied by others in a broad spectrum (1, 19-21). For instance the effect of gestation period, APGAR score, risk factors for mortality related to antenatal care, labor and delivery on neonates mortality are shown by...
Ballot and Colleagues (17). Further, Horbar and colleagues showed significant effect of prenatal care, cesarean section, multiple births, antenatal steroids on mortality of neonates (22). Therefore, although the survival rate of VLBW and LBW infants in our study is not dramatically different from these rates in other developing countries, based on the results reported by others, prenatal and neonatal care and neonatal resuscitation programs are needed to be emphasized to improve the outcome of infants with birth weight less than 2500g, furthermore.

In order to improve the survival rate of both LBW and VLBW neonates in the community, effective variables should be recognized. Some of these variables might be specific for different communities depending on social norms and socio-economic status as well as culture and even religious. Some factors have direct effect on survival rate and some are indirectly related to mortality of neonates. Total effect of these variables could be explained in a model of web of causation. Accurate inspect on the role of these factors in determining of neonates survival would help health systems with developing effective methods for improving neonates survival rate which is vitally needed in many communities including in our study region. A continuing audit of these measures should also be encouraged.

**Ethical considerations**

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, redundancy, etc) have been completely observed by the authors.

**Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank all mothers who agreed to help with this research. The authors would also like to thank the management of Physiopharmacological Research Centre, Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences for supporting the project financially. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

**References**

1. Tema T (2006). Prevalence and determinants of low birth weight in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia. *East Afr Med J*, 83(7):366-71.
2. Barker DJP (2003). Low birth weight, early growth and chronic disease in later life. *Paediatric Basics*, 104:12-20.
3. Jordan IM, Robert A, Franck J, Sann L, Putet G (2005). Growth in extremely low birth weight infants up to three years. *Biol Neonate*, 88(1):57-65.
4. Seidman DS, Laor A, Gale R, Stevenson DK, Danon YL (1991). Is low birth weight a risk factor for asthma during adolescence? *Arch Dis Child*, 66:584-587.
5. Brooks AM, Byrd RS, Weitzman M AP, McBride JT (2001). Impact of Low Birth Weight on Early Childhood Asthma in the United States. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*, 155:401-406.
6. Wilson-Costello D, Friedman H, Minich N, Fanaroff AA, Hack M (2005). Improved Survival Rates With Increased Neurodevelopmental Disability for Extremely Low Birth Weight Infants in the 1990s. *Pediatrics*, 115(4):997-1003.
7. Tsou KI, Tsao PN (2003). The morbidity and survival of very-low-birth-weight infants in Taiwan. *Acta Paediatr Taiwan*, 44(6):349-55.
8. Heller G, Günster C, Misselwitz B, Feller A, Schmidt S (2007). Annual patient volume and survival of very low birth weight infants (VLBW) in Germany-a nationwide analysis based on administrative data. *Z Geburtshilfe Neonatol*, 211(3):123-31.
9. Roudbari M, Yaghmaei M, Soheili M (2007). Prevalence and risk factors of low-birth-weight infants in Zahedan, Islamic Republic of Iran. *East Mediterr Health J*, 13(4):838-45.
10. Casey PH, Whiteside-Mansell L, Barrett B, Bradley RH, Gargus R (2006). Impact of Prenatal and/or Postnatal Growth Problems in Low Birth Weight Preterm Infants on School-Age Outcomes: An 8-Year Longitu-
11. Ju-Hee S, Eun-Hee H, Ok-Jin K, Byung-Mi K, Hye-Sook P, Jong-Han L, et al (2007). Environmental health surveillance of low birth weight in Seoul using air monitoring and birth data. *J Prev Med Pub Health*, 40(5):363-70.
12. Lin SS, Su BH, Lin TW, Lin HC, Peng CT (2002). A comparison of survival in extremely low birth weight infants between periods 1997-1998 and 1998-2000. *Acta Pae-diatr Taiwan*, 43(4):193-8.
13. Onyiriuka AN (2006). Trends in incidence of delivery of low birth weight infants in Benin City, southern Nigeria. *Niger Postgrad Med J*, 13(3):189-94.
14. Balaji K, Sankar S, Nandagopal B (2010). Low birth weight of newborns: Magnitude of the problem seen in a 100 bed hospital of a rural area in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu (India). *Indian J Community Med*, 35:362-4.
15. Hokama T, Binns C (2009). Trends in the prevalence of low birth weight in Okinawa, Japan: a public health perspective. *Acta Pae-diatr Taiwan*, 98(2):242-6.
16. Guyer B, Hoyert DL, Martin JA, Ventura JA, MacDorman MF, Strobino DM (1999). Annual Summary of Vital Statistics 1998. *Pediatrics*, 104(6):1229-1246.
17. Ballot DE, Chirwa TF, Cooper PA (2010). Determinants of survival in very low birth weight neonates in a public sector hospital in Johannesburg. *BMC Pediatrics*, 10:30.
18. Velaphi SC, Mokhachane M, Mphahlele RM, Beckh-Arnold E, Kuwanda ML, Cooper PA (2005). Survival of very-low-birth-weight infants according to birth weight and gestational age in a public hospital. *S Afr Med J*, 95(7):504-9.
19. Brown DR, Bloom BT, Cohen M, Myers MM, Egan EA, Kattwinkel J, et al (1998). Increased survival in low birth weight neonates given prophylactic surfactant. *J Perinatol*, 18(6 Pt 1):431-5.
20. Seo JH, Ha EH, Kim OJ, Kim BM, Park HS, Leem JH, et al (2007). Environmental health surveillance of low birth weight in Seoul using air monitoring and birth data. *J Prev Med Pub Health*, 40 (5):363-70.
21. Pacheco AH, Barreiros NS, Santos IS, Kac G (2007). Caffeine consumption during pregnancy and prevalence of low birth weight and prematurity: a systematic review. *Cad Saude Publica*, 23(12):2807-19.
22. Horbar JD, Badger GJ, Carpenter JH, Fanaroff AA, Kilpatrick S, LaCorte M, et al (2002). Trends in Mortality and Morbidity for Very Low Birth Weight Infants, 1991–1999. *Pediatrics*, 110:143-151.
کارگاه های آموزشی مرکز اطلاعات علمی جهاد دانشگاهی

کارگاه آنلاین اصول تنظیم قراردادها

کارگاه آنلاین کاربرد نرم افزار SPSS در پژوهش

کارگاه آنلاین پروپوزال نویسی