

APAGBI SURVEY AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

Template Report for Surveys of the APA Membership

Survey Title: Post-operative apnoea in ex-premature infants undergoing inguinal hernia repair

Survey Authors: F Murray, S Chandrashekhar and A Visram

Brief Description of Purpose: As part of assessing feasibility for a multicentre study of ex-premature infants undergoing surgery we conducted a survey to gain information regarding admission and monitoring practices for these patients followed by paediatric anaesthetists. We were particularly interested in the importance our colleagues place on patient haemoglobin and recovery room apnoea. We intended to use information gathered to help design a prospective study which would have the potential to increase the scope of day case surgery among ex-premature infants.

Category of Membership Surveyed: (e.g. all, home, overseas, linkmen, trainee): The survey was sent to all members but the survey requested completion by consultants only.

Dates of Survey: May 14th- Aug 14th 2012

Number of Responses: 204

Outline Findings of Survey:

1. 90% of respondents were from a tertiary paediatric centre or university teaching hospital.
2. The majority (53%) of respondents quoted 60 weeks post conceptual age as a cut off for overnight admission; some respondents failed to quote a figure as it varied depending on co-morbidities.
3. Post-conceptual age was the single most important factor determining overnight admission (97% respondents), though other factors taken into consideration included gestational age at birth (60%) and recovery room apnoea (66%).
4. Only 34% routinely check pre-operative haemoglobins although this is an independent risk factor for post-operative apnoea quoted by the Cote paper. Interestingly only 47% of respondents would not change their post-operative management on the discovery of anaemia (haematocrit <30%).

Intended Publication/Presentation:

1. Poster/ presentation at APA next year

Follow up Actions Required: None

Other Comments:

We asked respondents specifically for their opinion on an acceptable risk of post-operative apnoea as part of planning for a wider study. The overwhelming feeling from respondents was that virtually no risk of post-operative apnoea was acceptable which would preclude any realistic possibility of conducting such a study.

Date Submitted to Survey Lead: 21/08/12

Submitted by: F Murray, S Chandrashekhar