

Neonatal Hypothermia Risk Factors and Prevention in The Perioperative Period

New born babies are at increased risk of hypothermia than adult surgical patients in the perioperative period. With improved resuscitation and survival of extremely premature babies, more and more premature babies are presenting to the operating room for various surgical procedures, posing significant challenges to the anesthesiologist. One of the commonly encountered challenges is to maintain adequate body temperature in premature and new born babies in the perioperative period. Neonates have poorly developed thermoregulatory mechanism and the surface area to body mass ratio in the neonates are twice that of adults. Prolonged surgeries like exploratory laparotomy in cold operating rooms with high air turn over leading to conductive and convective heat losses significantly adds to the increased incidence of hypothermia in the perioperative period.

Hypothermia can lead to various adverse effects like impaired metabolism wound healing and coagulation derangements can significantly contribute to the increase in morbidity and mortality of the surgical patients. Despite of adequate literature, this problem is encountered in our day to day care of the pediatric patients.

This special issue aims to address the pathophysiology of neonatal hypothermia, predisposing factors, adverse effects and the methods that can be implemented to prevent hypothermia in neonates and premature babies.

The editor encourages all the health care professions who provides care for the babies in the perioperative period across the world to share their thoughts either in the form of an original research or as a review article.

Key words:

Hypothermia, Premature, Thermoregulatory, Conductive, Convective heat loss, Morbidity, Mortality

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