

EARLY SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOME AT 5^{1/2} YEARS IN VERY PRETERM INFANTS: THE EPIPAGE-2 COHORT STUDY

A. Mitha¹, L. Marchand¹, J.-C. Rozé², P. Kuhn³, M. Kaminski¹, V. Pierrat¹

¹Université de Paris, Epidemiology and Statistics Research Center/CRESS, INSERM, INRA, Paris, France, ²Department of Neonatal Medicine, Nantes University Hospital, Nantes, France, ³Department of Neonatal Medicine, University Hospital of Strasbourg, University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

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Background and aims: Long-term effects on neurodevelopment of Skin-to-Skin Contact (SSC) for very preterm infants are still debated. This study aims to evaluate the association of early SSC on neurodevelopmental outcomes at 5^{1/2} years among very preterm infants.

Methods: Using the national population based EPIPAGE-2 cohort, exposure to SSC during the first week of life was evaluated by a propensity score analysis, based on individual and unit characteristics with inverse probability of treatment weighting approach. Outcomes were full-scale-intelligence-quotient (Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, 4th edition); behaviour (strengths and difficulties questionnaire); and social communication difficulties (social communication questionnaire) among 2 561 infants born between 24 and 31 weeks, and surviving at 5^{1/2} years.

Results: Among survivors, 1 581 (61.8%) were exposed to SSC during the first week of life (range among neonatal units from 15 to 75%). At 5^{1/2} years, SSC was associated with an increased full-scale-intelligence-quotient +1.8 points (+0.0 to +3.6); and with trends for lower scores of behavioural difficulties -0.4 points (-1.1 to +0.4) and social communication difficulties -0.3 points (-0.8 to 0.2).

Conclusions: Early SSC during the first week of life among very preterm infants was associated with increased full-scale-intelligence-quotient at 5^{1/2} years. Variability of practices among units deserves attention. Further evaluation of the dose-effect is needed.

This study is: Approved by an Ethics Review Board (ERB). Please specify:

Details: This study was approved by the National Data Protection Authority (CNIL DR-2016-290) and by appropriate ethics committees (Consultative Committee on the Treatment of Data on Personal Health for Research Purposes - reference no. 16.263, Committee for the Protection of People Participating in Biomedical Research - reference 2016-A00333-48).

1. I confirm that the abstract and that all information is correct: Yes

2. I confirm that the abstract constitutes consent to publication: Yes

3. I confirm that I submit this abstract on behalf of all authors: Yes

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