

**Clinical study of hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy in neonates with special reference to ultrasonography cranium and clinical outcome**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Birth asphyxia is responsible for a large number of neonatal deaths after preterm births. The anterior fontanelle of the human infant is open, making it an available site for cranium ultrasonography.. In the proposed study, we plan to use cranium USG findings of asphyxiated newborns diagnosed with HIE with respect to the clinical outcome of asphyxiated babies during hospital stay.

**Aim:** Clinical study of hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) occurring in asphyxiated neonates delivered at a tertiary care hospital attached to JLN medical college. To compare the USG cranium findings in asphyxiated babies with respect to the clinical outcome of asphyxiated babies during hospital stay.

**Results:** Among the 50 neonates in the case group 16(32%) had mild HIE, 14(28%) had moderate HIE and 6(12%)had severe HIE during the course in NICU while 14(28%) never manifested features of HIE In

this study we found Out of 50 neonates enrolled in the case group having suffered asphyxia 42(84%) were discharged, 6(12%) were LAMA, 2(4%) died. In our study Cranial USG were normal in 55.55 % of asphyxiated babies. Increase periventricular echogenicity and intracranial haemorrhage are most frequent findings in asphyxiated babies.

**Conclusions:** The diagnostic efficiency of usg cranium in asphyxiated neonates correlate with clinical outcome of neonates with HIE. It also proves ultrasonography cranium to be used as a screening tool which helps in localizing the extent of brain damage in different stages of HIE and also helps in prediction of outcome during the hospital stay of newborn.

**Keywords:** HIF, NICU, USG

**Introduction**

Perinatal asphyxia is thus a serious problem for child survival globally, more in developing countries. Perinatal asphyxia results in Intracranial haemorrhage ,

Water shed infarcts , Neuronal necrosis , Cerebral edema .Apart from increased mortality, perinatal asphyxia may have serious neurological consequences ranging from Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and epilepsy in later life. Ultrasonography (USG) has emerged as a powerful screening tool for evaluation of a neonate with suspected HIE. The pattern of injury on brain imaging has crucial implications in therapies and predicted neurodevelopmental outcomes. The sonographic examination of neonatal brain was performed through anterior fontanelle in both the coronal and sagittal planes. In the present study, we have done usg cranium in asphyxiated babies and compared the sonographic findings with the clinical outcome of asphyxiated babies during hospital stay.

**Material and methods**

The present study was carried out in January 2019 to January 2020 in the Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Mahila Chikitsalya, J.L.N. Medical College, Ajmer which provides neonatal care at this center. The study was conducted on 50 asphyxiated newborn infants at birth and 50 normal healthy newborn as control.

The general physical examination and systemic examination including cardiovascular system, respiratory system, gastrointestinal system and central nervous system including neonatal reflexes like rooting, sucking, swallowing, Moro’s, Graps reflex and muscle tone were done. LEVENE classification was used to label and grade HIE.

Gestational age were detemined by using NEW BALLARD SCORE.

APGAR SCORING system used. The case group also had other relevant biochemical investigations and cranium USG done as per protocol. Using the real time ultra sound machine SONQACE X7 high frequency (7.5Mhz) transducer. Transducer was moved through anterior fontanelle along parasagittal plane and anterior –posterior plane to acquire the image of whole hemisphere. Clinical course was closely monitored and final outcome was recorded.

**Observations and results**

A study of 50 cases (neonatal asphyxia) and control of 50 cases (normal newborns), was undertaken to have an insight into clinical picture of HIE in asphyxiated newborn with special reference to usg cranium via anterior fontanelle.

Table 1: Distribution of findings of cranial ultrasonography according to HIE

Sn.	Cranial USG FINDINGS	Control n=50		Asphyxiated							
				Mild N=16		Moderate N=14		Severe N=6		Total N=36	
		NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%
1.	Intracranial hemorrhage	0	0	0	0	2	14.28	3	50.00	5	13.88
2.	Diffuse or focal increase in parenchymal echogenicity	0	0	0	0	2	14.28	2	33.33	4	11.11
3.	Increase periventricular echogenicity	0	0	0	0	6	42.85	1	16.66	7	19.44
4.	Normal	50	100	16	100	4	28.57	0	0	20	55.55

In our study cranial USG were normal in 55.55 % of asphyxiated babies. Increase periventricular echogenicity (19.44%) and intracranial hemorrhage

(13.88%) were most frequent findings in asphyxiated babies.

Table 2: Comparison of outcome of neonates enrolled in the case group having suffered asphyxia with findings of cranial ultrasonography

Sn.	Outcome USG Findings	Control n=50		Successfully discharged		LAMA		Death	
		NO.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Intracranial hemorrhage	0	0	5	10	0	0	0	0
2.	Diffuse or focal increase in parenchymal echogenicity	0	0	4	8	3	6	0	0
3.	Increase periventricular echogenicity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Normal	50	100	30	60	1	2	0	0
5.	Intracranial hemorrhage and Diffuse or focal increase in parenchymal echogenicity	0	0	3	6	2	4	2	4

In our study, 60% of asphyxiated neonates had normal cranial USG and were successfully discharged. 4% of asphyxiated neonates had intracranial hemorrhage and Diffuse or focal increase in parenchymal echogenicity and died. 10% of asphyxiated neonates had Intracranial hemorrhage and was successfully discharged. All control had normal cranial USG findings and were discharged.

**Discussion**

The present study entitled "Clinical study of Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy in neonates with special reference to Ultrasonography cranium and clinical outcome." was conducted at Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology, at Neonatal intensive care unit of Rajkiya Mahila Chikitsalya, J.L.N. Medical College, Ajmer. The case and control group had cranium USG done as per protocol, once the babies were hemodynamically stable. In the present study all the 50 (100%) neonates in

the case group had an Apgar score of <7 at 1 minute out of them 45 (90%) had an Apgar score between 0-3 (severe birth asphyxia) and 5 (10%) had Apgar score between 4-6 (moderate birth asphyxia).

At 10 minute of life 50(100%) neonates in the case group 9 had an Apgar score of <7 at 10 min. None had an Apgar score between 0-3 (severe birth asphyxia) and 9 (18%) had Apgar score between 4-6 (moderate birth asphyxia) remaining 41 cases had Apgar score of >7 at 10 min.

In our study the correlation of APGAR score at 1 min with HIE status among the cases and it was not found to be statistically significant. The correlation of APGAR score at 5 min with HIE status among the cases was found to be statistically significant with p value of <0.001. There by Apgar score being helpful

as an important tool for the diagnosis and severity of birth asphyxia and timely helping in choosing appropriate resuscitation intervention.

In the present study ultrasound of brain was done in the first week as soon as the condition of baby became hemodynamically stable. Cranial USG were normal in 55.55 % of asphyxiated babies. Increase periventricular echogenicity (19.44%) and intracranial hemorrhage (13.18%) are most frequent findings in asphyxiated babies. Diffuse or focal increase parenchymal echogenicity was seen in 11.11% of cases. In the control group ultrasound brain was normal in all newborns.

### Conclusion

The diagnostic efficiency of usg cranium in asphyxiated neonates correlate with clinical outcome of neonates with HIE. It also proves ultrasonography cranium to be used as a screening tool which helps in localizing the extent of brain damage in different stages of HIE and also helps in prediction of outcome during the hospital stay of newborn.

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