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Effect of feeding schedule on time to reach full feeds in neonates weighing 500 to 1500 grams: A randomized trial

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Aim: To compare the effect of 3-hourly (3-h) versus 2-hourly (2-h) feeding schedules on time to reach full feeds in neonates weighing less than 1500 grams.

Materials and Methods: This was a randomized trial conducted in a level 3 neonatal intensive care unit, Surya Children's Hospital Mumbai, India. We enrolled 120 preterm neonates with birth weights of 501 to 1500 g. The neonates were divided into 2 strata based on birth weight: 501 to 1000 g and 1001 to 1500 g. The neonates were randomized into 2 orogastric feeding schedules: 8 or 12 feeds (3-h or 2-h schedules, depending upon randomization), and a uniform feeding protocol was followed. Analysis was performed using the intention-to-treat principle. Categorical variables were compared using the Chisquare test. Continuous measures between groups were compared using 2-sample t test or Mann Whitney U test as appropriate. Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS version 21 software. P < 0.05 was considered significant. Primary outcome measures were time (in days) to reach full feeds (defined as tolerance of 150 mL/kg/d of feeds for at least 48 h). Secondary outcome measures were time (in days) to attain birth weight; time (in days) to discharge; weight, length, and head circumference at discharge; incidence of feed intolerance, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), Intravascular hemorrhage (IVH), screenpositive sepsis, culture-positive sepsis, hypoglycemia, apnea, jaundice and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), duration of total parental nutrition (TPN) and nursing; and mortality.

Results: A total of 215 neonates were assessed for eligibility, of which 95 were excluded. Hence, 120 neonates were enrolled in the trial. There was no significant difference in time (in days) to reach full feeds in the 2-h versus 3-h groups $(9.53 \pm 4.26 \text{ v/s} 9.85)$ \pm 5.48; P = 0.73). There was no significant difference between the 2 groups in most of the secondary outcomes. However the total time spent per day in feeding was significantly lesser in the 3-h feeding schedule group (P = 0.04). Subgroup analysis revealed that among the neonates in the lower birth weight strata (501 to 1000 gms), those fed 2 hourly reached full feeds earlier compared with those fed 3-hourly (2-h group: 11.24 ± 2.88 d vs 3-h group: 14.14 ± 4.98 d; P = .041).

Conclusions: There was no significant difference in time to reach full feeds in all the neonates, irrespective of whether they were fed 2-h or 3-h. However, neonates < 1000 g reached full feeds earlier when fed more frequently (2-h feeding schedule).



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Biography

Showkat Hussain Tali has obtained Bachelor's degree in 2005 and MD in Pediatric Medicine from University of Kashmir, India in 2010. In 2013, he joined Department of neonatology Surya Children's Hospital Mumbai and became Board Certified in neonatology from the National Board of India in 2015. In November 2016, he joined Adesh University, Punjab as Assistant Professor Pediatrics and in charge Neonatology. At present he is working as assistant professor at Govt Medical College Anantnag, J and K India. He has more than 2 dozen publications in national and international journals. He has received science talent search award from the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir in 1997 and was awarded by Help Foundation and Raju Gandhi foundation, India, for excellence in creative writing in 2006. In 2017 he was awarded official spot light certificate at New Delhi for my overall achievements. He has presented my research work in 3 international conferences across the world (Czech Republic, Prague; Los Angeles, USA; Dubai, UAE) in 2017. Also he Co-Chaired a scientific session and was the moderator of 14th world pediatric and neonatal Care Conference Los Angeles, California, USA. He has been the key note speaker and presented two papers related to infant and neonatal nutrition in international conference "Advances in Neonatal and Pediatric Nutrition", at London, UK, 2018. He also Co-chaired a session with Professor Alexander Oleskein, Moscow state University, Russia at the same conference. He is an editorial board member of archives of pediatrics and neonatology, an international journal published from USA.

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