

Systemic Pressure

Clinical Controversies: Transitional Pulmonary Hypertension Management approaches

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Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension of the Newborn (PPHN)

- Failure of normal pulmonary vascular relaxation and subsequent increased PBF at/after birth - often low PBF
- ?PAP relative to systemic BP vs single number (>25mmHg)
- Clinically hypoxic respiratory failure, <u>lability</u>
- Multiple underlying elements interacting together to give a clinical phenotype
- Can affect both term and <u>preterm</u> infants

Increased PVR Affects ALL cardiac chambers



Giesinger, McNamara et al 2017

Case History

- Normal pregnancy
- Vaginal delivery at 2 am
- Term infant 3.7 kg
- Thick meconium stained liquor
- Apgar scores 3 & 8 Normal cord pH
- Meconium suctioned from below cords, IPPV
- FIO2 90%+ to maintain saturation >90% by 15 minutes





Management

- Placed on conventional ventilation initially but quickly changed to HFOV
- MAP & Amplitude adjusted to ABG
- Mean blood pressure 42 mmHg
- By 60 minutes still requiring 90% FIO2 to saturate >90%
- 3am, 1 hr old
- No pediatric cardiologist in sight!

Management

Commence PPHN treatment

- Volume
- Inotrope
- Vasodilator

Perform a CPU (Clinician performed US) to gain more information and decide on treatment

Escalation of care Days in NICU



Normal structural heart (confirmed later) Good filling & contractility Small PDA Left to right No TI/evidence of raised pulmonary pressure

Not all infants with high FIO₂ have PPHN

- Management:
 - No iNO
 - No inotropes
 - No volume
- Optimised HFOV
- Rapid improvement next 4 hrs
- Extubated at 15 hrs of age
- Discharged from the nursery Day 2

PPHN

Understand underlying elements

- Respiratory effects on PVR
- Systemic blood pressure
- Pulmonary pressures high? > SystemicBP
- Impaired cardiac function/filling asphyxia
- PDA open or closed, shunt direction
- Right ventricular function/impingement
- Left ventricular impairment*
- <u>Combination</u> of these elements will define clinical presentation and treatment requirements

Classical treatment approach - stepwise

- Oxygen, pO₂ Target higher levels
- Carbon dioxide, pH target lower pCO₂
- Acid base balance optimize
- Optimize respiratory management CMV/HFOV, lung recruitment/surfactant
- Inotrope/pressor dopamine, epinepherine, norepinephrine, vasopressin
- Pulmonary vasodilators
 – iNO, sildenafil, milrinone, use oxygenation index (OI)
- Sedation/muscle relaxation?

Refractory = unresponsive to classical treatment (30% in some series)

- Wrong diagnosis Primary Respiratory vs CVS
- Wrong physiology underlying elements
- Wrong treatment (leads on from above)
- Treatment too late (iNO start times/OI threshold) lung injured
- Treatment too long missed weaning cues
- Physiology has transitioned (CVS to Respiratory)
- Biochemical/Molecular resistance refractory to iNO ?Milrinone instead

Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CPU)



PPHN

Ultrasound assessment

Exclude structural heart disease

- Measurement of pulmonary pressures
- Assessment of the ductus arteriosus/PFO
- Assessment of ventricular function & filling
- Measurement of cardiac output



PPHN – US assessment Raised pulmonary pressures/RV

Measures

- Tricuspid incompetence
- TPV/RVET ratio
- RV function/TAPSE/RVOT velocities/RVO
- Septal bowing
- Decreased pulmonary venous return
- Tissue doppler imaging (TDI)

PPHN – US assessment PDA and PFO assessment

Measures

- PDA present
- Shunt direction and proportion of right to left shunt
- Estimate relative pulmonary vs systemic pressure
- PFO present and shunt direction

PPHN – US assessment Adequate LV function

- Measures
 - LVO
 - Contractility measures
- LV dysfunction often associated with PPHN, particularly if asphyxia related
- Increasing PBF with iNO may be contraindicated

PPHN

Management decisions

- Which oxygen saturation to target?
- Pre/Post ductal SpO₂ value of these?
- Role of oxygenation index(OI) single number?
- Which pH/pCO₂ to target? Phase of illness
- Respiratory support PVR/lung recruitment/NIV*
- Vasopressors vs inotropes PDA shunt direction, RV/LV function, PVR vs SVR/BP*
- Pulmonary vasodilator choice in term and preterm infants with raised PVR, subgroups of term infants*.
- Sedation/Paralysis

PPHN

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JB West Pulmonary Physiology Essentials, Giesinger, McNamara et al 2017

The ideal inotrope/pressor

- Support the systemic BP
- Enhance cardiac output and contractility
- Support the right ventricle reduce afterload (PVR)

PPHN

Inotrope choice: PVR/SVR

	SV	SVR	PVR
Dopamine	1	$\uparrow\uparrow$	ተተተ
Noradrenaline	1/≈	ተተተ	√/≈
Vasopressin	√/≈	ተተተ	\checkmark
Dobutamine	ተተ	√/≈	*
Milrinone	$\uparrow\uparrow$	$\downarrow \uparrow$	$\downarrow\downarrow$
Adrenaline	ተተተ	ተተተ	ተተ
SV = stroke volume; SVR = systemic vascular resistance; PVR = pulmonary vascular resistance			

 \uparrow = increase; ↓ = decrease; ≈ = no effect

El-Khuffash 2018 adapted from Cox & Groves Acta Ped 2012

Vascular smooth muscle relaxation



Steinhorn Neonatology 2016

Matching treatment to the individual pathophysiology

Diagnose & manage underlying disorder

Specific treatments

Assess cardiac filling—under or over filled

- Volume if under filled
- Limit volume if overloaded

Sort out respiratory disease

- CXR, respiratory graphics, ABG
- Different ventilation modes

Exclude structural heart disease

Cardiologist if any concern

Look at blood pressure

- If low—inotropes, especially if cardiac dysfunction from hypoxia
- If OK, but oxygenation drops with BP drop—look at PDA—if open, systemic BP may need to be higher

Look at cardiac output/ventricular function
Inotropes if low cardiac output, poor function

Inotrope choice

Vasoconstricting vs. vasodilating—depends on myocardial function & peripheral resistance

- Dopamine followed by epinephrine if low BP and decreased afterload
- Dobutamine/Milrinone if high afterload and ventricular dysfunction

Need for pulmonary vasodilator

- Inhaled NO—ideal if lungs recruited
- Systemic vasodilator—risk of systemic hypotension

Review longitudinally and adjust according to response



Use of cardiac ultrasound to guide treatment

- Retrospective cohort study over 2 epochs before and after setup of a fECHO program
- 85 infants, 73%<29 wks</p>
- In the epoch of more available US
 - 65% vs 36% had an US pre iNO
 - iNO was started earlier (1.8 vs 8hrs) and at a lower OI (31 vs 39)
- Survival similar but survivors overall had iNO started earlier

Cheng, Sehgal et al Acta Paed 2015

PPHN Management principles

Knowing underlying physiology can help determine timing/sequence of treatments



Modified from De Waal 2015

Conclusions

- Not all hypoxic respiratory failure is PPHN
- Deciding on logical treatment strategy requires understanding pathophysiology
- May lead to earlier targeted treatment (particularly iNO), better response rates
- Refractory PPHN may result from poorly targeted or delayed treatment
- Cardiac ultrasound is useful in assessment and treatment choices(including rule out CHD)

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