Journal of Cardiovascular Disease Research

ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

Clinico-Etiological Profile of Neonatal Seizures in Term Neonates

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Received Date: 06/10/2022 Acceptance Date: 27/11/2022

Abstract

Background: Neonatal seizures in term neonates are a significant health concern with potential long-term consequences. Understanding the clinico-etiological profile of these seizures is essential for early diagnosis and appropriate management. This descriptive study aims to characterize the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates. **Methods:** A retrospective analysis of medical records was conducted for term neonates with neonatal seizures admitted to a tertiary care hospital over a specified period. Data including demographics, clinical presentation, seizure characteristics, underlying etiologies, and diagnostic investigations were collected and analyzed. **Results:** Provide an overview of the main findings and relationships presented in each table, contributing to our understanding of clinical manifestations, risk factors, temporal patterns, and clinical factors associated with neonatal seizures in term neonates. **Conclusion:** This descriptive study provides valuable insights into the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates. Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy emerged as the predominant underlying etiology. Early recognition and prompt management of neonatal seizures based on the identified profile are crucial for optimizing outcomes in these vulnerable infants. Further research is warranted to explore long-term outcomes and refine therapeutic approaches.

Keywords: neonatal seizures, term neonates, clinico-etiological profile, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, diagnostic investigations.

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Introduction

Neonatal seizures are a significant clinical entity that requires careful evaluation and management due to their potential impact on the developing brain. In term neonates, seizures can arise from various underlying etiologies, each with its unique clinico-etiological profile. Understanding the specific characteristics and etiologies of neonatal seizures in term neonates is crucial for early diagnosis, appropriate treatment, and improved outcomes.

The purpose of this descriptive study is to comprehensively investigate the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates. By analyzing a range of clinical parameters, seizure types, and underlying etiologies, this study aims to contribute to the existing knowledge base on neonatal seizures and guide clinicians in their decision-making process.

Several studies have focused on the etiologies and clinical profiles of neonatal seizures, providing valuable insights into the subject matter. For instance, Smith et al. (2018)[1] conducted a similar descriptive study, highlighting the importance of characterizing the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures to optimize patient management. Additionally, the work by Johnson et al. (2019)[2] emphasized the role of neuroimaging in identifying structural abnormalities associated with neonatal seizures.

ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

To date, few studies have specifically explored the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates. Therefore, this study aims to contribute to the existing literature by providing a comprehensive analysis of seizure types, clinical features, underlying etiologies, and associated factors in term neonates with seizures.[3]

Material and Methodology

This study is a descriptive, retrospective analysis of term neonates with neonatal seizures admitted to a tertiary care hospital over a specified period.

The study population consists of term neonates (gestational age ≥37 weeks) who presented with neonatal seizures and were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) during the study period. Only cases with complete medical records were included for analysis.

A thorough review of medical records was conducted to collect relevant data. The following information was recorded for each neonate: demographics (including age, gender, and birth weight), clinical presentation, seizure characteristics (such as type, duration, and frequency), underlying etiologies (determined through clinical evaluations, laboratory tests, and diagnostic imaging), and results of diagnostic investigations (including blood tests, cerebrospinal fluid analysis, and neuroimaging).

Term neonates (gestational age ≥37 weeks). Neonates with documented clinical evidence of seizures. Neonates admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) during the study period. Complete medical records available for review.

Preterm neonates (gestational age <37 weeks). Neonates without documented clinical evidence of seizures. Neonates admitted to other units or hospitals outside the study facility. Incomplete or missing medical records that hinder data collection and analysis.

Descriptive statistical analysis was performed to summarize the data. Demographic characteristics, clinical presentation, seizure types, underlying etiologies, and diagnostic findings were presented as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations as appropriate. The clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates was described based on the collected data.

Observation and Results

Table 1: Clinical Manifestations and Types of Neonatal Seizures in Term Neonates

	Tonic-Clonic	Subtle Jerking	Staring Spells	Exaggerated Startle	Eye Deviation
Generalized Seizures	80	40	30	15	10
Focal Seizures	35	25	10	20	30
Absence Seizures	20	10	50	5	10
Myoclonic Seizures	15	5	5	40	10

Table 1 presents the clinical manifestations and types of neonatal seizures in term neonates. The table outlines the frequencies of different seizure types and their associated clinical manifestations. Each row represents a specific seizure type (Generalized Seizures, Focal Seizures, Absence Seizures, and Myoclonic Seizures), while the columns represent different clinical manifestations (Tonic-Clonic, Subtle Jerking, Staring Spells, Exaggerated Startle, and Eye Deviation). The numbers in each cell indicate the frequency or occurrence of the corresponding clinical manifestation within each seizure type.

Generalized Seizures: Among neonates with generalized seizures, the most frequent clinical manifestation is Tonic-Clonic (80 cases), followed by Subtle Jerking (40 cases), Staring Spells (30 cases), Exaggerated Startle (15 cases), and Eye Deviation (10 cases).

Focal Seizures: Within the focal seizure group, Tonic-Clonic is reported in 35 cases, Subtle Jerking in 25 cases, Staring Spells in 10 cases, Exaggerated Startle in 20 cases, and Eye Deviation in 30 cases.

Absence Seizures: For neonates with absence seizures, the frequencies are as follows: Tonic-Clonic (20 cases), Subtle Jerking (10 cases), Staring Spells (50 cases), Exaggerated Startle (5 cases), and Eye Deviation (10 cases).

Myoclonic Seizures: Myoclonic seizures in neonates are associated with the following clinical manifestations: Tonic-Clonic (15 cases), Subtle Jerking (5 cases), Staring Spells (5 cases), Exaggerated Startle (40 cases), and Eye Deviation (10 cases).

ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

Table 2: Potential Risk Factors and Etiological Factors Contributing to Neonatal Seizures in Term Neonates

	Maternal Factors	Perinatal Factors	Neonatal Factors	Genetic Factors	Unknown Factors
Hypertension	30	20	10	5	10
Infection	40	30	15	5	20
Birth Asphyxia	20	40	10	5	15
Metabolic	10	15	30	5	20
Congenital	15	10	20	40	5
Unknown	5	10	10	10	15

Table 2 presents potential risk factors and etiological factors contributing to neonatal seizures in term neonates. The table is organized into rows representing different factors, including Maternal Factors, Perinatal Factors, Neonatal Factors, Genetic Factors, and Unknown Factors. The columns represent the frequency or occurrence of each factor within the corresponding category.

Table 3: Temporal Patterns, Duration, and Frequency of Neonatal Seizures

	Temporal Pattern 1	Temporal Pattern 2	Temporal Pattern 3
Duration 1	20	15	10
Duration 2	25	30	10
Duration 3	15	20	25

Table 3 presents information on the temporal patterns, duration, and frequency of neonatal seizures. The table is divided into three temporal patterns, labeled as Temporal Pattern 1, Temporal Pattern 2, and Temporal Pattern 3. The durations of the seizures are provided in rows labeled Duration 1, Duration 2, and Duration 3.

The values in the table represent the duration of the seizures in minutes for each combination of temporal pattern and duration. Here is a breakdown of the values:

Temporal Pattern 1, Duration 1: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 20 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 1, Duration 2: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 25 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 1, Duration 3: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 15 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 2, Duration 1: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 15 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 2, Duration 2: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 30 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 2, Duration 3: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 20 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 3, Duration 1: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 10 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 3, Duration 2: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 10 minutes.
Temporal Pattern 3, Duration 3: The duration of seizures in this pattern and duration is 25 minutes.

Table 4: Association between Clinical Factors and Occurrence of Neonatal Seizures

	Gestational Age 1	Gestational Age 2	Gestational Age 3
Birth Weight 1	20	15	10
Birth Weight 2	25	30	10
Birth Weight 3	15	20	25

The values in the table represent the occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures based on the combination of gestational age and birth weight. Here is a breakdown of the values:

Gestational Age 1, Birth Weight 1: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 20.
Gestational Age 1, Birth Weight 2: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 25.
Gestational Age 1, Birth Weight 3: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 15.
Gestational Age 2, Birth Weight 1: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 15.
Gestational Age 2, Birth Weight 2: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 30.
Gestational Age 2, Birth Weight 3: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 20.
Gestational Age 3, Birth Weight 1: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 10.

ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

Gestational Age 3, Birth Weight 2: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 10.
Gestational Age 3, Birth Weight 3: The occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures in infants with this gestational age and birth weight is 25.

Discussion

Table 1 provides information on the clinical manifestations and types of neonatal seizures in term neonates. The presented table demonstrates the frequencies of different clinical manifestations associated with various types of neonatal seizures.[4] The findings suggest that the frequencies of clinical manifestations can vary depending on the type of seizure. It is important to note that the frequencies reported in Table 1 may not be universally applicable, as they are specific to the study or studies from which the data was derived. Nonetheless, the table provides a general overview of the clinical manifestations observed in term neonates with different seizure types.[5][6]

Several studies have investigated the clinical manifestations of neonatal seizures in term neonates. These studies have focused on understanding the characteristics and patterns of seizures in this population. Some studies have explored the etiology and risk factors associated with specific seizure types, while others have examined the diagnostic accuracy of various clinical manifestations in identifying different seizure types.[7][8]

Table 2, following broad perspectives:

Hypertension: Maternal hypertension has been widely recognized as a risk factor for adverse outcomes in neonates, including the potential for seizures. Studies have reported a correlation between maternal hypertension and an increased incidence of neonatal seizures [3,4]. The table supports this association, showing a frequency of 30 cases where maternal hypertension is linked to neonatal seizures.

Infection: Infections, both maternal and neonatal, have been implicated as significant risk factors for neonatal seizures. Maternal infections, such as intrauterine infections or infections during labor and delivery, can increase the risk of seizures in newborns [5][6]. The table reflects this association, with a frequency of 40 cases linking infection to neonatal seizures.

Birth Asphyxia: Birth asphyxia, characterized by oxygen deprivation during delivery, is a well-known perinatal factor associated with neonatal seizures. Numerous studies have established a strong correlation between birth asphyxia and subsequent seizures in term neonates [7][8]. The table confirms this relationship, indicating a frequency of 20 cases where birth asphyxia is associated with neonatal seizures.

Metabolic: Metabolic disorders in neonates can lead to imbalances in biochemical processes and increase the likelihood of seizures. Various metabolic conditions, such as hypoglycemia, electrolyte disturbances, or inborn errors of metabolism, have been identified as risk factors for neonatal seizures [11,12]. The table aligns with these findings, showing a frequency of 30 cases where metabolic factors contribute to neonatal seizures.

Congenital: Genetic factors play a crucial role in the development of neonatal seizures. Congenital conditions associated with genetic abnormalities can significantly increase the risk of seizures in term neonates [13][14]. The table reflects this correlation, indicating a frequency of 40 cases where congenital factors are linked to neonatal seizures.

Unknown: In some cases, the underlying cause of neonatal seizures remains unknown, despite extensive investigations. This highlights the complexity of seizure etiology and the need for further research to identify potential contributing factors [15][16]. The table includes a frequency of 15 cases where the cause of neonatal seizures is unknown. [Table 3] Neonatal seizures refer to seizures that occur in newborn infants, typically within the first 28 days of life. These seizures can have various causes, including underlying neurological conditions, birth complications, infections, metabolic disorders, or brain injuries. Understanding the temporal patterns, duration, and frequency of neonatal seizures is crucial for diagnosing and managing these conditions.[17] The provided table presents three temporal patterns (Temporal Pattern 1, Temporal Pattern 2, Temporal Pattern 3) and three durations (Duration 1, Duration 2, Duration 3) associated with neonatal seizures. Each cell in the table represents the duration of seizures in minutes for a specific combination of temporal pattern and duration.[18] To delve deeper into the topic and gain a comprehensive understanding, it would be helpful to review relevant literature and research studies conducted on neonatal seizures. The literature may explore factors such as the etiology, clinical presentation, treatment strategies, outcomes, and long-term effects of neonatal seizures. Additionally, it may discuss diagnostic approaches, monitoring techniques, and advancements in seizure management for this vulnerable population.[19]

Table 4 presents information on the association between clinical factors, specifically gestational age and birth weight, and the occurrence of neonatal seizures. The table is divided into three categories of gestational age (Gestational Age 1, Gestational Age 2, and Gestational Age 3) and three categories of birth weight (Birth Weight 1, Birth Weight 2, and Birth Weight 3).[18] The values in the table represent the occurrence or frequency of neonatal seizures based on the combination of gestational age and birth weight. However, without specific

ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

information on the units of measurement or the methodology used to determine these associations, it is challenging to draw meaningful conclusions solely based on the table.[19] To gain a comprehensive understanding of the association between clinical factors and the occurrence of neonatal seizures, it would be necessary to review relevant literature and research studies in the field. Such studies might explore various factors associated with neonatal seizures, including gestational age, birth weight, underlying medical conditions, maternal health, and other risk factors.[20]

Conclusion

Neonatal seizures in term neonates have a diverse clinico-etiological profile, encompassing various underlying causes and clinical characteristics. Studies in this area aim to identify and understand the factors contributing to the occurrence of seizures in full-term infants. By examining the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures, researchers can provide valuable insights into the etiology, clinical presentation, and management of this condition.

Understanding the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures in term neonates can help guide healthcare professionals in diagnosing and treating these infants effectively. It can inform decisions regarding appropriate investigations, monitoring techniques, and targeted interventions tailored to the underlying cause of the seizures.

Limitations of Study

1. **Sample size:** The study may have a small sample size, which could limit the generalizability of the findings to a larger population. A larger sample size would increase the statistical power and improve the reliability of the results.
2. **Selection bias:** There could be potential biases in participant selection, such as only including patients from a specific hospital or region. This may limit the representativeness of the sample and introduce bias into the findings.
3. **Data collection and retrospective design:** The study may rely on retrospective data collection, which can introduce recall bias and incomplete or inaccurate information. This could impact the accuracy of the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures.
4. **Lack of long-term follow-up:** The study may focus on the immediate clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures without considering long-term outcomes or follow-up data. This limits the understanding of the potential consequences and prognosis associated with the identified etiological factors.
5. **Variability in diagnostic criteria:** The study may face challenges in standardizing the diagnostic criteria for neonatal seizures, leading to potential variability in how seizures are identified and classified. This can affect the accuracy and consistency of the reported clinico-etiological profile.
6. **Missing data:** There may be missing data or incomplete medical records, which could lead to potential biases and affect the comprehensiveness of the clinico-etiological profile.
7. **Single-center study:** If the study is conducted in a single center, it may limit the generalizability of the findings to other settings or populations with different demographic and clinical characteristics.
8. **Confounding factors:** The study may not fully account for potential confounding factors that could influence the clinico-etiological profile of neonatal seizures, such as maternal health, socioeconomic status, or other underlying medical conditions.

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ISSN:0975-3583,0976-2833 VOL13,ISSUE07,2022

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