

**“INCIDENCE AND CLINICO ETIOLOGICAL PROFILE OF THROMBOCYTOPENIA IN NEONATES IN TERTIARY HOSPITAL GGH,GUNTUR”.**

**Dr.B.Ramesh Kumar, DrShaik Karimulla, Dr.P.Brahmaiah, Dr.A.Deepak Kumar, Dr.K Vanibai, Dr.K.**

**Prudhvi Krishna, Dr.K Swetha, Dr.Sk Haroon Rasheed Shaik**

Associate's Profesor Of Pediatrics Guntur Medical College, Guntur,

Assistant Professor , Guntur Medical College , Guntur,

Assistant Professor , Government Medical College, Eluru,

Associate Professor Of Pediatrics, Government Medical College , Eluru,

Asst professor of pediatrics GMC GUNTUR,

Asst professor of pediatrics GMC GUNTUR,

Asst professor of pediatrics GMC GUNTUR.

Junior Resident In Pediatrics, Guntur Medical College, Guntur

**ABSTRACT** ;Thrombocytopenia is a common problem in NICU .there are so many causes of thrombocytopenias , in this study we are evaluating clinical and etilogies of thrombocytopenias. The incidence of thrombocytopenia in this study was 43%.In our study, out of the 28 cases of early onset thrombocytopenia, the leading cause was culture proven sepsis seen in 43.9 % of cases followed by 31.8 % cases having birth asphyxia , 15.15% of cases were born to mothers having preeclampsia and 9 % of cases were IUGR neonates.Out of the 15 cases of late onset thrombocytopenia , 62.2% of cases were having c sepsis and 26.6 %of cases having meconium aspiration syndrome , 8% cases having birth asphyxia and 0% cases having Rh incompatibility.Maternal risk factors like pregnancy induced hypertension and maternal

**Keywords:** Thrombocytopenia, Neonates,Preterm,Sepsis.

Review of literature

Schematically, there are four main processes involved in the production of thrombopoietic factors, **a)** primarily thrombopoietin [Tpo], **b)** the proliferation of megakaryocyte (MK) progenitors, **c)** the differentiation and maturation of MKs through a specific process of endomitosis and cytoplasmic changes, and **d)** the production and release of platelets into the circulation.

Despite the fact that thrombocytopenic newborns often have lower Tpo concentrations than adults with same mechanisms of thrombocytopenia, healthy fullterm and preterm neonates have higher Tpo concentrations in response to thrombopoietic stimulation than healthy adults.Numerous studies have demonstrated that MK progenitors multiply more rapidly in fo etuses and newborns than in adults.

**Causes of thrombocytopenia**

**IMPARIED PLATELET PRODUCTION,**

**CONSUMPTION AND SEQUESTRATION OF PLATELETS**

**COMBINED MECHANISMS**

**IMPARIED PLATELET PRODUCTION**

According to studies, decreased platelet generation is the main cause behind newborn thrombocytopenia. 75% of the time, low platelet counts are either present at birth or start to show up within the first 72 hours of life<sup>4</sup>. Only a small percentage of these patients suffer from immunological conditions or coagulopathies that lead to thrombocytopenia. Preterm neonates delivered during pregnancies complicated by placental insufficiency and/or foetal hypoxia, such as those involving maternal pre- eclampsia and foetal intrauterine growth restriction, make up the majority of the remaining patients.. Megakaryocytes and their precursor and progenitor cells are significantly decreased at birth in neonates with this early-onset thrombocytopenia, and as a result, levels of the megakaryocytopoietic cytokine thrombopoietin are raised. Megakaryocytopoiesis and platelet formation are also hampered. Tpo levels in neonates are lower in thrombocytopenic neonates than in children or adults, especially in tiny for gestational age newborns. In comparison to those of children or adults, they produce colonies with more megakaryocytes and may be more responsive to Tpo stimulation. Neonatal megakaryocytes are smaller and have decreased ploidy, yet they still have mature-looking cytoplasm<sup>5</sup>. Finally, the Tpo action prevents neonatal megakaryocyte polyploidization. Due to the higher proliferative capacity of their megakaryocyte progenitors, neonates maintain normal platelet levels.

**CONSUMPTION AND SEQUESTRATION OF PLATELETS** About 25–35% of newborn thrombocytopenias are caused by increased platelet consumption and/or sequestration. The transmission of maternal platelet alloantibodies and autoantibodies through the placenta causes 15-20% of neonatal thrombocytopenias to be present at delivery. An additional 10-15% of cases—almost invariably in babies who are extremely ill and frequently in conjunction with infection and prenatal asphyxia—are attributable to intravascular coagulation. Another example of newborn thrombocytopenias primarily brought on by platelet consumption is thrombosis or platelet activation/immobilization at sites of inflammation, such as the gut during necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) or in haemangiomas. Additionally, there is proof that ill neonates experience little platelet sequestration in the spleen

#### CONSUMPTION AND SEQUESTRATION OF PLATELETS

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#### COMBINED MECHANISMS

Placental insufficiency, which can occur in newborns born to mothers who have foetal growth restriction (FGR) or diabetes during pregnancy, as well as in those who have pregnancy induced hypertension/preeclampsia, is the most common cause of mild to moderate, early onset thrombocytopenia in a well-appearing neonate<sup>8</sup>. In fact, it is likely that the majority of newborns who develop thrombocytopenia do so because their unfavourable foetal environment impairs megakaryocytopoiesis at birth, and that the baby is predisposed for thrombocytopenia to get worse when exposed to concurrent neonatal platelet consumptive "stress." Additionally, the typical course of thrombocytopenia in sepsis and NEC (fast onset, rapid progression, sluggish recovery over five to seven days) shows that Platelet consumption (rapid initiation phase), followed by poor platelet synthesis (delayed recovery phase), are likely the combined factors that lead to it.

#### PLATELET COUNT AND RISK OF BLEEDING

However, this range of platelet count comes from a limited number of small sample studies of healthy newborns. A study from Circulating platelets have a typical volume between 7 and 9 fL and are around 1/5th the diameter of a red blood cell. With a half-life of 7 to 10 days, platelets only remain in the circulation for a very little period of time. Their major job is to protect the vascular endothelium from damage and to limit bleeding after small-vessel injury by forming tiny aggregates or plugs in the microcirculation. When platelets are insufficient in number or function, bleeding tends to occur. In babies and young children, a typical platelet count is thought to range between 150,000 to 450,000/mcL. The lower limit of platelet ranges from neonates at various gestational ages during their first 90 days after birth was reported by 18 hospitals in the United States using data from more than 47,000 neonates as 123,000/mm<sup>3</sup> in late preterm and term neonates and 104,000/mm<sup>3</sup> in infants born at less than 32 weeks' gestation<sup>6</sup>. A platelet count below 150,000/mm<sup>3</sup> should always be read in the context of the clinical circumstances, regardless of whether it is considered abnormal. The quantity of platelets in the bloodstream directly relates to bleeding propensity. Platelet levels between 20,000 and 100,000/mm<sup>3</sup> are associated with a minimum or mild risk of bleeding, whereas platelet counts below 20,000/mm<sup>3</sup> are associated with a significant risk of bleeding. The relationship between platelet count and bleeding in neonates has not been demonstrated. Clinicians should take action based on this platelet count to stop bleeding in the NICU since the trauma and stress of childbirth can, albeit infrequently, cause intracranial or internal bleeding. For premature newborns, this threshold seems to be higher. Preterm newborns will frequently have platelet transfusions when their platelet count is 50,000/mm<sup>3</sup><sup>7</sup>. However, there is limited proof that this strategy will stop intracranial bleeding (ICH). It is necessary to conduct prospective research to determine the safest and most economical threshold for transfusing premature newborns. Mucocutaneous haemorrhage occurs when there is moderate to severe thrombocytopenia. Low platelet counts are characterised by petechiae, bruising, or bleeding from the mucous membranes. In the neonate, thrombocytopenia may also result in intraventricular haemorrhage or cerebral bleeding



**Inclusion criteria**

Neonates which were admitted on day one of life to NICU of Government General Hospital ,Guntur.

**Exclusion criteria**

Neonates that succumbed to death within 72 hours of admission.

Neonates who got discharged before 72 hours of admission.Sampling method

Simple random sampling. type of the study,Prospective explorative hospital based study.

**METHODOLOGY**

WE CONVINIENTLY classify the new borns in to 2 categories 1high risk.2.low risk

**High risk**

The newborns in this group included those with suspected or proven sepsis (proven on culture), significant birth asphyxia (Apgar score 0-3 at 1 minute of life), intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR) (10th centile for GA), extreme low birth weight (ELBW) (birth weight 1000 g), and newborns whose mothers had a known condition that caused thrombocytopenia (Rh isoimmunization)

**Low risk**

Babies with low birth weight (LBW) (babies weighing between 1,500 and 2,500 g), babies with moderate birth asphyxia (Apgar scores 4- 6 at 1 minute of life), preterms with a primary diagnosis of respiratory distress syndrome, babies with meconium aspiration syndrome without significant birth asphyxia or IUGR, and neonates weighing more than 1,000 g but less than 1,500 g.

**Collection of Blood Samples.**blood sample is collected from the babies on day 1 and whenever symptomatic and day 3 in EDTA sample and sent it for analysis.

**STATISTICAL METHODS**

**Descriptive statistics** , Contingency table analysis and Chi square test were used for statistical analysis and p value <0.05 was taken as statistically significant using SPSS software version 20.0

**RESULTS**

In this study , 100 neonates admitted to our NICU were studied and the study results were analysed with appropriate statistical methods and compared with previous studies.

**Table 1**Distribution according to gestational age and gender

Gestational Age	Male	Female	Total
28-32	9 (45%)	11(55%)	20
33-36	13 (59.1%)	9 (40.9%)	22
>37	30 (51.7%)	28 (48.3%)	58
Total	52 (52%)	48 (48%)	100
Chi square value= 0.838			
P value= 0.658			

**Table 2** Incidence and severity of thrombocytopenia

SEVERITY	Frequency	Percent
No thrombocytopenia	0	0
MILD	85	85.0
MODERATE	7	7.0
SEVERE	8	8.0
Total	100	100.0
Chi square value= 29.58		
P value= <0.001		

**Table 3** Onset of thrombocytopenia in the study according to

ONSET	Frequency	Percent
Early	28	28.0
Late	15	15.0
NO	57	57.0
Total	100	100.0
Chi square value= 0.838		
P value= 0.157		

**Table 4**Severity of thrombocytopenia

gestational age

Gestational Age	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE	Total
28-32	10 (50%)	3 (15%)	7 (35%)	20
33-36	19 (86.4%)	2 (9.1%)	1 (4.5%)	22
>37	56 (96.6%)	2 (3.4%)	0 (0%)	58
Total	85 (85%)	7 (7%)	8 (8%)	100

Chi square value= 30.002

P value= <0.001

**Table 5 Distribution of thrombocytopenia and its severity according to weight**

Birth Weight Kg	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
<0.9	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1(100%)	1
1-1.49	40 (93%)	3 (7%)	0 (0%)	43
1.5-2.49	5 (38.5%)	2 (15.4%)	6 (46.2%)	13
>2.5	40 (93%)	2 (4.7%)	1 (2.3%)	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 (85%)</b>	<b>7 (7%)</b>	<b>8 (8%)</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi square value= 45.9				
P value= <0.001**				

**Table 6 Incidence and severity of maternal PIH**

PIH	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
Yes	10 (66.7%)	0	5 (33.3%)	15
No	75 (88.2%)	7 (8.2%)	3 (3.5%)	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 (85%)</b>	<b>7 (7%)</b>	<b>8 (8%)</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi square value= 16.09				
P value= <0.001**				

**Table no 7: birth asphyxia – stages of hypoxiaic isvhemia encephalopathy and neonatal thrombocytopenia**

	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
No birth Asphyxia	72 (83.7%)	6 (7%)	8 (9.3%)	86
HIE I	9 (100%)	0	0	9
HIE II	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	0	4
HIE III	1 (100%)	0	0	1 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 (85%)</b>	<b>7 (7%)</b>	<b>8 (8%)</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi square value= 16.09				
P value= <0.001**				

**Table 8 Respiratory distress syndrome**

Respiratory distress syndrome	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
Present	17 (65.4%)	2 (7.7%)	7 (26.9%)	26
Absent	68 (91.9%)	5 (6.8%)	1 (1.4%)	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 (85%)</b>	<b>7 (7%)</b>	<b>8 (8%)</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi square value= 17.34				
P value= <0.001				

**Table 9 Gestational age and culture positive sepsis.**

Gestational Age (weeks)	No	Klebsiella Sps	CONS	Citroba cter Sps	Candida albica ns	E coli	Total
28- 32	11 (55%)	4 (20%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	0	1(5%)	20
33- 36	18 (81.8%)	0	0	0	2 (9.1%)	2(9%)	22
>37	56 (96.5%)	1 (1.7%)	0	0	0	1(1.7%)	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>85 (85%)</b>	<b>5 (5%)</b>	<b>3 (3%)</b>	<b>1 (1%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>	<b>4 (4%)</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi square value= 48.42							
value= <0.001**							

**Table 10 Culture positive sepsis and neonatal thrombocytopenia**  
**Table 11 Distribution of thrombocytopenia and its severity in low and high risk**

Blood culture	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total	Risk	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
					High	0	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)	13
Positive	2 (13.3%)	6 (4%)	7 (46.6%)	15	Low	85 (97.7%)	2 (2.3%)	0	87
Negative	83 (97.6%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	85	Total	85 (85%)	7 (7%)	8 (8%)	100
Total	85 (85%)	7 (7%)	8 (8%)	100	Chi square value= 87.6				
Chi square value= 71.09					P value= <0.001**				
value= <0.001**									

**DISCUSSION**

Thrombocytopenia is one of the most common haematological abnormalities seen in the NICU but can be missed if not specifically looked for. Several studies have reported thrombocytopenia in 22–35% in all infants admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit . The basic mechanisms include decreased platelet production , increased consumption and sequestration and combined mechanisms.In our study a total of 100 neonates admitted to the NICU selected randomly ,meeting the criteria were included. Neonates were divided in two risk groups- high risk and low risk depending upon the presentation, maternal history and any antenatal/perinatal events. Platelet counts were done on the first, third and fifth day of admission and thereafter every 72 hours till counts were normal. The incidence of thrombocytopenia was studied along with the clinico-etiological profile. The clinical course and outcome of newborns with severe thrombocytopenia was also studied. The incidence of thrombocytopenia in this study was 43%.Severe thrombocytopenia was seen in 8%of thrombocytopenic babies and Mild thrombocytopenia was seen in 85% of thrombocytopenic neonates and moderate thrombocytopenia was seen in 7%. The study done by Gupta A et al (2011) had the incidence of thrombocytopenia of 70.5%. Severe thrombocytopenia accounted for 34.4% of cases while mild to moderate thrombocytopenia accounted for in 66.5% cases. In the study conducted by Zacheaus et al (2010) the overall prevalence of neonatal thrombocytopenia was 53.0%. Mild thrombocytopenia was found in 39.4%of the neonates, 12.1% had moderate thrombocytopenia , while severe thrombocytopenia was detected in 1.5% of the neonates. In the study conducted by Bonifacio(2007) , they found thrombocytopenia (67%) of cases and was mild in 12.8 % , moderate in 36.2 % and severe in 51 % of the cases.The results of our study were comparable to the other studies Incidence and severity of thrombocytopenia in different studies  
 Thrombocytopenia Mild ModerateSevere

Maternal PIH and neonatal thrombocytopenia In our study total of 15(15%) cases have maternal risk factor as PIH out of which 10(66.7%) cases have mild thrombocytopenia and 5 (33.3%)cases have severe thrombocytopenia and the difference being statistically significant (p <0.001) In study done by Bhat R et all (2008), they had 36.1% prevalence of thrombocytopenia in neonates born to mother having PIH. Out of which 20.6% was severe.In study conducted by Sivakumar S et al (2006),

thrombocytopenia was in 22% of 64 cases of neonates born to mothers with PIH and 9 % were severe.  $P < 0.02$ . Maternal PIH and neonatal thrombocytopenia in various studies. Thrombocytopenia severe p-value in maternal PIH thrombocytopenia We had a higher incidence of thrombocytopenia in neonates born to mothers with PIH when compared to the other studies.

**Birth asphyxia and neonatal thrombocytopenia**

In our study we had 28% of patients with birth asphyxia had thrombocytopenia of which 0% had severe thrombocytopenia .

In the study conducted by Christensen RD et al (2015), thrombocytopenia was seen in 31 % of neonates with asphyxia.

In study conducted by Nadkarni J (2012) , 25.07% of neonates with asphyxia developed thrombocytopenia, out of which 67.7% had severe birth asphyxia ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Mild thrombocytopenia was seen in 12.5 %, moderate in 16.6% and severe in 2.08%. Birth asphyxia and neonatal thrombocytopenia in various studies Thrombocytopenia severe p-value thrombocytopenia Our study 28% In our study incidence of thrombocytopenia in Asphyxiated newborns is nearly same as previous studies

**Neonatal sepsis and thrombocytopenia**

In our study we had a total of 15 culture positive sepsis cases. Out of which 100% of cases having thrombocytopenia which was significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) Neonatal sepsis and thrombocytopenia in other studies Culture positive mild moderate severe total p-value

Sepsis Our study 13.3% 40% 46.7% 100%  $p < 0.001$  Charoo B A et al 27 % 20% 12.5% 59.5% Organism specific response to thrombocytopenia In neonates having culture proven sepsis, 25% grew Klebsiella pneumonia, 15% grew coagulase negative staphylococcus , 9.1% of cases had candida albicans, 5% grew citrobacter sps and 15.7% of neonates having E. coli sepsis.

In a similar study conducted by Charoo B A et al (2009) showed 62.5% having Klebsiella sepsis, CONS in 10.5% of cases 3 % cases of having fungal growth and the rest having mixed growth in blood culture. In our study incidence of thrombocytopenia was highest in neonates with klebsiella and fungal sepsis. In the study conducted by Charoo B A et al, 103 fungal sepsis had the highest incidence of thrombocytopenia . Organism specific response to thrombocytopenia

**0 Necrotizing enterocolitis and thrombocytopenia**

In our study , all cases of necrotizing enterocolitis had thrombocytopenia out of which 12.5% had mild thrombocytopenia , 25 % had moderate thrombocytopenia and 62.5% had severe thrombocytopenia which was significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) In study conducted by Charoo B A et al , in neonates with NEC , 5 % had mild thrombocytopenia , 47 % had moderate thrombocytopenia , 35 % had severe thrombocytopenia and rest did not have thrombocytopenia ( $p < 0.001$ ). The association between necrotizing enterocolitis and thrombocytopenia is known and our study re- emphasizes the same.

**Prematurity and neonatal thrombocytopenia**

Out of 44 preterms included in our study , 44 % had thrombocytopenia and 18.1% having severe thrombocytopenia and the incidence and severity of thrombocytopenia increasing with decreasing gestational age. Neonatal patients with severe and moderate thrombocytopenia usually had lower gestational ages and birth weights, according to a 2007 study by Bonafacio L. The development of NEC and sepsis, particularly that brought on by a Candida infection, were linked to serious thrombocytopenic events. Lower gestational age was significantly related with the development of IVH, but not with the severity or age at which thrombocytopenia first appeared.

**Intrauterine growth retardation and neonatal thrombocytopenia**



In our study 62 % of neonates with intrauterine growth retardation have thrombocytopenia, out of these thrombocytopenic neonates , 18.18 % have severe thrombocytopenia. There is no significant difference in the severity of thrombocytopenia and intra uterine growth restricted neonates .In study conducted by Maruyama H (2008), shows significant increase in the incidence of thrombocytopenia in IUGR neonates. ( $p < 0.0001$ ) Respiratory distress syndrome and neonatal thrombocytopenia

In our study 26% of neonates with RDS had thrombocytopenia , out of which 26.9% had severe thrombocytopenia which was significant ( $p < 0.001$  ) In a earlier study conducted by Kohelet D , severity of RDS was correlated to the platelet counts and they demonstrated statistically that decreased oxygenation exerted a unique influence on the change in platelet counts in the early neonatal days. Neonatal thrombocytopenia and bleeding manifestations In our study 50% of patient having severe thrombocytopenia had bleeding manifestations in the form of gastrointestinal hemorrhage in 75% and intraventricular hemorrhage in 25% .In the study conducted by Stanworth S et al (2012) , found bleeding manifestations in 13 % of cases with severe thrombocytopenia with 53% of them having IVH, 26 % having pulmonary bleeding and 11 % having renal involvement.

Platelet transfusion and Outcome in severe thrombocytopenia

In our study 11 cases are transfused with platelets out of which 6 (54.4%) expired and 5 (45.5%) survived.

Etiological profile of neonatal thrombocytopenia

Early onset thrombocytopenia

In our study out of the 28 cases of early onset thrombocytopenia, sepsis was seen in 28.5% of cases , followed by 21.4% cases having birth asphyxia .21.4% of cases were born to mothers having PIH and and 10.7% of cases were IUGR neonates.

Late onset thrombocytopenia

In our study out of the 15 cases of late onset thrombocytopenia , 46.6% of cases had culture proven sepsis , cases having NEC and and of cases having meconium aspiration syndrome , 6.6% cases having birth asphyxia and cases having Rh incompatibility. In both groups , sepsis has been found to be the main risk factor for the development of thrombocytopenia with preterms significantly affected more than term neonates . ( $p < 0.02$ ) Several other studies by Sola et al 96 , Roberts M et al 97 , also have similar results

In the study conducted by Gupta et al , aetiological profile of thrombocytopenia included 34 % of cases with sepsis, 21.01 % of birth asphyxia , 20.2 % of extremely low birth weight infants , 17.39 % born to preeclamptic mothers and 13.7 % were intrauterine growth retarded. In our study , incidence of thrombocytopenia was higher in the high risk group (78.9% ) which included neonates with culture proven sepsis , IUGR , extremely low birth weight babies, severe birth asphyxia, maternal thrombocytopenia, when compared to the low risk group (21.1%) which statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). Newborns with Rh isoimmunisation did not have statistically significant difference. We did not have neonates with congenital thrombocytopenic syndromes in our study.

Similar study done by Gupta A et al showed the overall incidence of thrombocytopenia was 70.5% (182/258). This was 93.7% (134/143) of the high-risk group and 41.7% (48/115) of the low-risk group .  $P < 0.05$ . Of all cases of thrombocytopenia 72% were late onset thrombocytopenia.

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