

A COMPARISON OF GROWTH BETWEEN HIV EXPOSED AND UNINFECTED AND HIV UNEXPOSED UNINFECTED INFANTS WHO RECEIVED KMC AT CHRIS HANI BARAGWANATH ACADEMIC HOSPITAL.

Abstract

Introduction: Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) has been associated with improved growth in low birthweight infants and reduction in hypothermia, hypoglycaemia, apnoeas, sepsis, hospital stay and mortality. The growth of HIV-infected children is poorer than those who are HIV-uninfected. There is paucity of data on the growth in the HIV-exposed uninfected (HEU) infants compared to HIV-unexposed uninfected (HUU) infants receiving KMC.

Aim: This study compared the growth of HEU and infants HUU from admission to the KMC ward until 12 months corrected age (CA) follow-up visit.

Methods: Retrospective record review of the neonates admitted in KMC at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital over a two-year period (2012-2013). The weight gain was assessed via weight velocity using the formula; weight/kg/day from admission to KMC to discharge, at term, 3, 6 and 9- and 12-months (CA). The demographics were collected and analysed using Statistica.

Results: Seventy-seven (129/166) percent of the mothers were HIV negative. HIV negative mothers were younger (25.9 vs 31.6 years; $p=0.000$) and had fewer pregnancies ($p=0.02$). There was no difference between the gestational age (30.3 ± 2.53 vs 30.8 ± 2.88 weeks; $p=0.35$) and birthweight ($1345\text{g}\pm234$ vs $1314\text{g}\pm209$; $p=0.47$) between HEU and HUU. There were no differences in the weight gain ($23.84\text{g}\pm12.18$ vs 23.22 ± 15.16 ; $p=0.83$) in KMC. There were no differences in weight gain at the different follow-up time points between the two groups.

Conclusion: Both HEU and HUU groups of infants showed reasonable weight gain above 15g/kg/day despite maternal HIV status

Key concepts: Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Low birth weight (LBW), HIV, HIV Exposed Uninfected (HEU), HIV Unexposed Uninfected (HUU), growth

