

UK Neonatal Collaborative Necrotising Enterocolitis Study

(REC reference: 11/LO/1430)



This study is a component of the NIHR funded “Medicines for Neonates” Programme*, which aims to use operational electronic data to support neonatal services and research. The “UK Neonatal Collaborative NEC (UKNC-NEC) Study group” are neonatal teams committed to entering high quality electronic data.

STUDY BACKGROUND

Preventive strategies for Necrotising Enterocolitis (NEC) remain elusive; feeding practices are widely believed to influence susceptibility but have not been tested adequately in randomised controlled trials. Most baseline incidence data come from small studies using varying case-definitions. Surveillance of NEC is also important for assessing temporal trends and geographical variation.

STUDY AIMS

- 1) To establish an objective case-definition for NEC that is applicable nationally and internationally
- 2) To determine the incidence of NEC over a large geographically defined population
- 3) To identify enteral-feed related antecedents that precede the onset of NEC.

METHODS

This study will utilise anonymised NHS electronic data captured as part of clinical care using the neonatal.net NHS platform (widely known as the “Badger system”) from all babies admitted over 18 months (starting Nov 2011) throughout the country.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM NEONATAL UNITS IN THE UKNC-NEC STUDY GROUP?

Only to ensure completion of the following electronic fields on all neonatal admissions:

Static data

(Enter once on all babies)

- Birth weight
- Gestational age
- Sex
- Mother’s race
- Antenatal steroids
- Gastrointestinal anomalies

Daily data

(Enter daily on all babies)

- Most recent weight
- Enteral feed (Type/ Fortifier/Volume)
- Medications (COX inhibitors/ Antibiotics)
- Lines in situ (Umbilical arterial line)
- Packed red cell transfusion

“Abdominal x-ray performed” ad-hoc form

- ONLY TO BE COMPLETED for babies who have an abdominal x-ray to investigate abdominal signs



If your unit would like to contribute to the study or would like further information, please contact :

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