

BLOOD GLUCOSE SCREENING IN HEALTHY NEONATES

Dear Sir,

I read the recent publication on screening for blood glucose in neonate⁽¹⁾ with great interest. Kayiran and Gürakan concluded that “glucose strips and glucose meters are useful only as screening devices for neonatal hypoglycaemia, and a screening cut-off value must be established.”⁽¹⁾ Indeed, this is not a new finding. In the report by Hoseth et al, a similar conclusion was made.⁽²⁾ In addition, the authors also noted that “biochemical thresholds for hypoglycaemia do not seem to be of practical importance.”⁽³⁾ However, previously published studies have indicated its use in screening.⁽⁴⁾ An interesting point concerns the trend of overestimated blood glucose⁽⁴⁾ from capillary blood sample analysis in the quoted studies.⁽¹⁻³⁾ Whether screening is used for healthy or non-healthy neonates, the control of the quality of analysers and the interpretation of capillary glucose results are very important.

Yours sincerely,

Viroj Wiwanitkit

Wiwanitkit House
Bangkhae
Bangkok 10160
Thailand
Email: wviroj@yahoo.com

REFERENCES

1. Kayiran SM, Gürakan B. Screening of blood glucose levels in healthy neonates. *Singapore Med J* 2010; 51:853-5.
2. Hoseth E, Joergensen A, Ebbesen F, Moeller M. Blood glucose levels in a population of healthy, breast fed, term infants of appropriate size for gestational age. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* 2000; 8:F117-9.
3. Diwakar KK, Sasidhar MV. Plasma glucose levels in term infants who are appropriate size for gestation and exclusively breast fed. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* 2002; 87:F46-8.
4. Harvey DR, Cooper LV, Fancourt RF, Levene M, Schoberg T. The use of dextrostix and dextrostix reflectance meters in the diagnosis of neonatal hypoglycemia. *J Perinat Med* 1976; 4:106-10.