signs of placental inflammation in the samples that tested positive for adenovirus. 

**RESULTS:** Between January 2005 and December 2006, 193 placenta samples (71 from preterm deliveries and 122 from term deliveries) were collected in Alexandra’s Maternity Hospital in Athens, Greece. The adenoviral genome was isolated in 54 (28%) of 193 placentas. The frequency of adenovirus detection in preterm placentas compared with those from term placentas was significantly increased (29 of 71[41%] vs 25 of 122 [20%]; \(P = .002\); odds ratio [OR]: 2.6 [95% confidence interval (CI): 1.4–5.1]). Stratification by gestational age (GA) revealed a stronger association between preterm delivery and adenovirus detection as GA decreased below 33 weeks (GA ≤29 weeks, OR: 2.8 [95% CI: 1.1–7.0]; and GA 30–33 weeks, OR: 2.7 [95% CI: 1.1–6.5]). In the sub-group of deliveries at 34 to 36 weeks’ GA, the association was no longer significant (OR: 2.6 [95% CI: 0.9–7.0]). Adenoviral genome detection followed the seasonal variation of adenovirus respiratory infections (beginning of March to end of June). Chorioamnionitis was present more frequently in the adenovirus-positive preterm placentas compared with term placentas (\(P = .006\)). The presence of villitis (\(P = .03\)) and chorioamnionitis (\(P = .02\)) was significantly increased in the adenovirus-positive preterm placentas compared with preterm adenovirus-negative placentas.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our results indicate that there is an association between placental adenoviral genome detection and spontaneous early premature birth. Adenovirus may cause preterm birth through placental inflammation (chorioamnionitis and villitis).

### OUTBREAK OF HUMAN METAPNEUMOVIRUS INFECTION IN CHILDREN IN CHONGQING, CHINA

**Submitted by Xiaodong Zhao**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) is a newly discovered respiratory pathogen. Understanding of the epidemiology of hMPV infection is limited in China. **OBJECTIVE:** The objective of this study was to describe an outbreak of hMPV infection in Chongqing, China, and study the high coinfection rates of hMPV and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

**METHODS:** A total of 93 nasopharyngeal aspirates (NPAs) were collected from hospitalized children with acute respiratory diseases during December 2006 to January 2007. Total RNA was extracted from NPAs by using QIAmp viral RNA minikit and amplified for hMPV F gene and RSV G gene by real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and traditional PCR, respectively. Most of the hMPV-positive samples were confirmed by traditional RT-PCR and subsequent nucleotide sequence analysis.

**RESULTS:** Of 93 NPAs, 38 (40.9%) were positive for hMPV and 52 (55.9%) were positive for RSV. Twenty-three (24.7%) revealed coinfection with both viruses. Ages of patients with hMPV infection ranged from 1 month to 31 months; 78.9% were younger than 2 years, and 47.4% were younger than 6 months. Cough was the most common symptom, 78.9% (30 of 38) had wheezing, and 42.1% had fever.

**CONCLUSIONS:** HMPV seems to be an important respiratory pathogen in young children in Chongqing, China. Coinfection of hMPV and RSV may frequently occur during the winter season. Whether coinfection leads to more severe disease remains unknown.
LIPID PROFILE OF PREMATURE INFANTS UP TO THE AGE OF 3 YEARS

Submitted by Helen Apostolou
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INTRODUCTION: Current literature indicates a high incidence of cardiovascular disease in later life of premature infants with low birth weight.

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to investigate serum lipid levels of prematurely born infants up to the age of 3 years.

METHODS: From 2001 to 2005, 171 premature newborns were studied in the follow-up clinic. Patients were divided into 4 groups according to gestational age (≤30 and >30 weeks) and birth weight (≤1000 and >1000 g). Serum levels of cholesterol, triglycerides, high-density lipoprotein, and low-density lipoprotein were recorded at 12, 24, and 36 months of life.

RESULTS: Cholesterol levels were within the reference range in every given period, independent of age. Infants with low birth weight (≤1000 g) had significantly increased cholesterol levels compared with those with higher birth weight (>1000 g) (P = .013). All groups had significantly higher serum triglyceride levels (P = .001) during the first year of life in comparison to all other periods. In addition, infants with low birth weight had significantly higher serum triglyceride levels (P = .015) during the second year of life than infants with higher birth weight.

CONCLUSIONS: Premature infants with low birth weight have increased cholesterol and triglyceride levels during the early years of life, which is a finding that might be related to a high incidence of atherogenesis in later life and requires additional investigation.

IONIZED SERUM CALCIUM, NOT SERUM TOTAL MAGNESIUM, PREDICTS OUTCOME IN NEONATAL HYPOXIC-ISCHEMIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

Submitted by Hoda Atwa
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INTRODUCTION: Perinatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) is a significant cause of neonatal mortality. Previous studies have attempted to find a sensitive parameter that will accurately predict outcome in infants with perinatal asphyxia.

OBJECTIVE: With this study we aimed to determine whether the serum total magnesium (Mg), ionized Ca (iCa), and sodium (Na) levels could predict the outcome of HIE.

METHODS: This was a hospital-based prospective study of admission to a newborn NICU. A total of 60 term neonates with HIE were included in the study. HIE was classified according to the criteria of Sarnat and Sarnat. Twenty healthy term newborns were chosen as controls. Total Mg, iCa, and Na levels were measured in umbilical cord blood and after 48 hours in blood. Neurologic examination was performed at 6 and 12 months. Outcome was scored as normal, disability, or death.

RESULTS: In normal infants there was a significant increase in serum total Mg and decrease in iCa concentrations by the second day of life as compared with that from umbilical cord blood. Infants with mild HIE had significantly higher umbilical cord blood total Mg levels compared with that of infants with moderate (P = .001) and severe (P = .02) HIE. On the second day of life, infants with severe HIE had significantly higher serum total Mg levels (P < .001) and lower iCa levels (P < .001) compared with those in the mild-HIE group. No significant differences between infants with severe and moderate HIE were observed regarding cord blood and 48-hour total Mg, iCa, and Na levels. The serum cord-blood and 48-hour iCa concentrations were significantly lower in the group of infants with HIE who had a poor outcome (odds ratios: 0.82 ± 0.10 and 0.70 ± 0.09) as compared with those with a good outcome (0.91 ± 0.08 and 0.86 ± 0.08) (P < .001 and P < .000, respectively).

CONCLUSIONS: Cord-blood and 48-hour levels of iCa and 48-hour Na could predict poor outcome in infants with HIE.

CEREBRAL OXYGENATION RESPONSES DURING SKIN-TO-SKIN CARE IN LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS
INFANT-VENTILATOR INTERACTION CAN AFFECT CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW IN PRETERM INFANTS: COMPARISON BETWEEN 2 MODES
Ehab Saoud Abd El-Moneim, Fuerste Hans-Otto, Krueger Markus, Ali Abou Elmagd, Matthias Brandis, Jürgen Schulte-Moenting and Roland Hentschel

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