

Care of sick neonates

Monkey Bay Community Hospital in Malawi



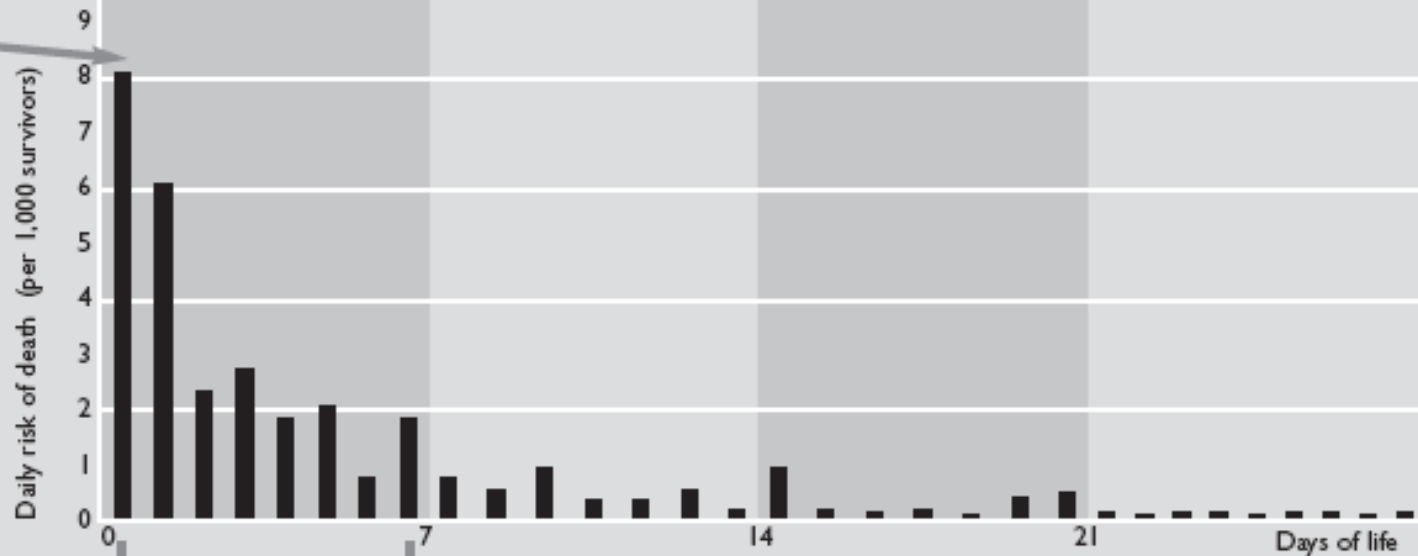
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Neonatal mortality

In the First Month of Life, the First Day and Week are Most Risky

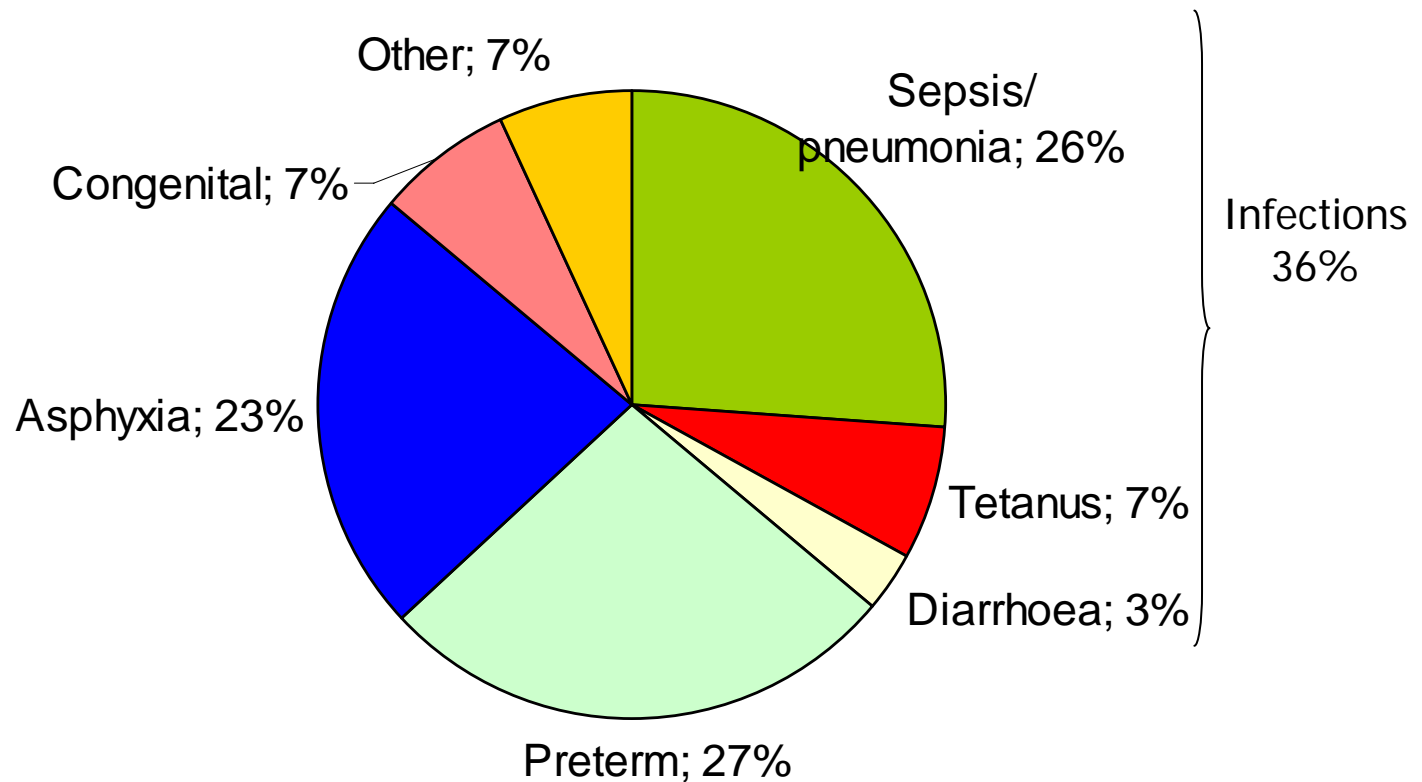
Up to 50 percent of newborn deaths are in the first 24 hours – 2 million deaths per year



A child's risk of dying on the first day of life is about 500 times greater than their risk of dying when they are one month old. The first hours and days of a baby's life are critical.

75 percent of newborn deaths are in the first week – 3 million deaths per year

Reasons for neonatal deaths in low-income countries



Prevention of neonatal deaths

- **Pregnant women**

- Immunization against tetanus
- Malaria prophylaxis
- Hemoglobin measurements and iron tablets

- **Birth**

- A skilled attendant
- Clean

- **After birth**

- Breastfeeding <1 hour after birth
- Clean
- Single-use knives
- Protecting the child against cold.



Aims of the study



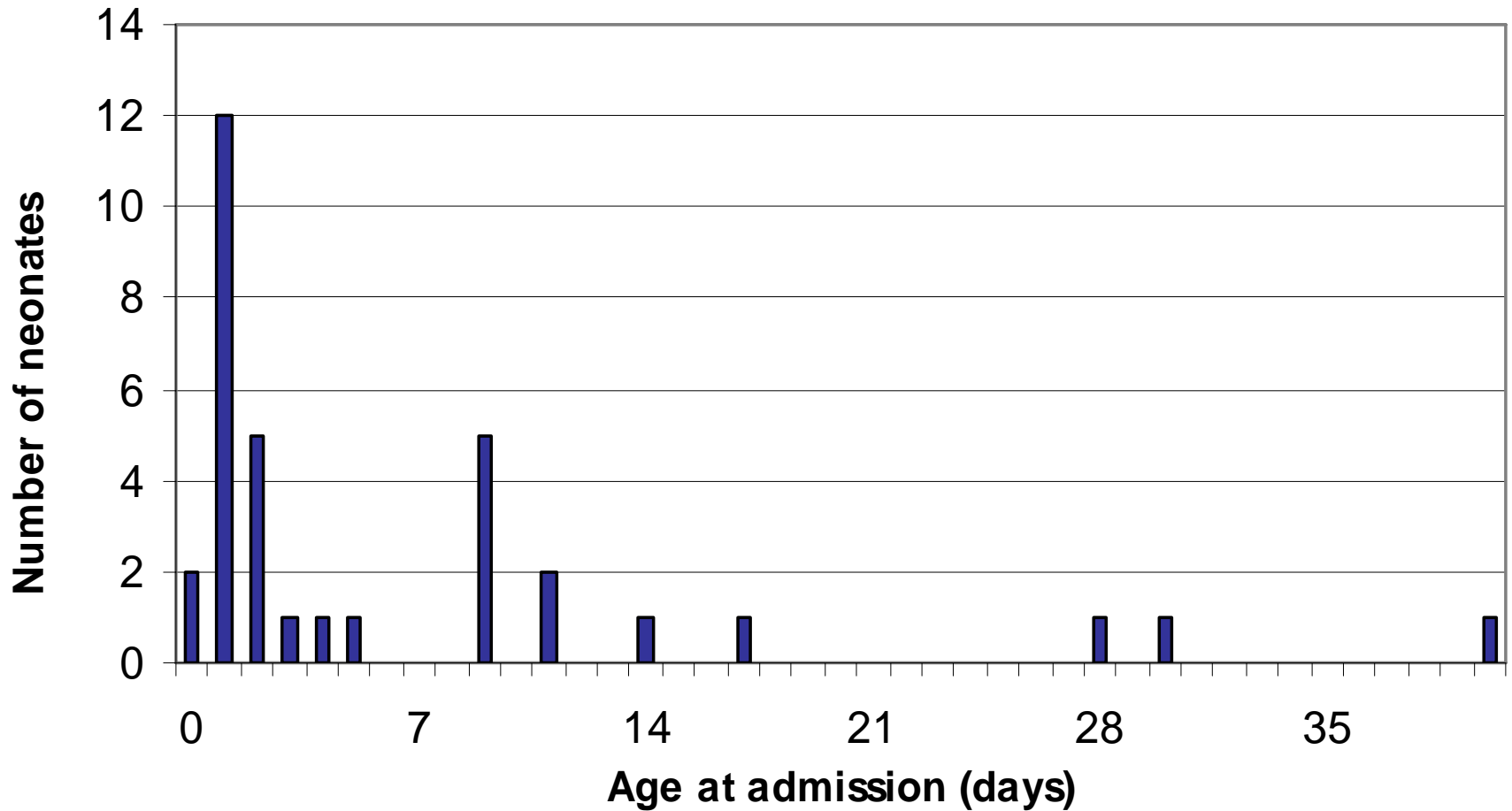
To describe and analyse care, treatment and monitoring of sick neonates in a sub-Saharan country

Methods and Materials

- **Monkey Bay Community Hospital**
- **Research period**
 - March 13 – April 13, 2006
- **Data collection**
 - Registration books
 - Clinical records
 - Interviews with staff and mothers
- **Newborn infants included in study**
 - 15 girls and 19 boys

Age at admission

MBCH March-April 2006



Registration routines

- **Admission book**

- 29 registered (85%)
- Not registered in admission book => not registered in discharge book

- **Discharge book**

- 18 registered (55%)

Reason for admission

- Neonatal sepsis (70%)
- Fever (9%)
- Neonatal conjunctivitis and cough (3%)
- Pneumonia (3%)
- No reason given (15%)

Diagnosis at discharge

- Neonatal sepsis (100%)

Weighing

- **Birth weight**
 - 74% with **registered BW** (25 out of 34)
 - 20% with BW **1000-2220 g** (5 out of 25)
- **At admission**
 - 68% weighed (23 out of 34)
 - median 3150 g
 - range 1800-4500g
- **At discharge**
 - 37% were weighed



Drugs

- **Gentamicin** – 5 mg/kg for 5 days
- **Benzylopenicillin** – 50.000 i.u./kg for 5 days

	Received drugs	Weighed	Too big dose	Right dose	Too small dose
Gentamicin	33	23	19	2	2
Benzylopenicillin	28	17	7	5	5

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	Received drugs	> 5 days	5 days	< 5 days
Gentamicin	33	6	11	16
Benzylopenicillin	28	1	10	17

Discharge

- **Number of in-patient days**
 - median **5 days** (range 1-7)
- **Discharge**
 - 23 neonates home
 - 6 neonates mother walked out with her neonate
 - 2 neonates died
 - 1 neonate referred to another hospital
 - 1 neonate not discharged

Conclusions

- **Positive aspects**
 - **Breastfeeding** generally practiced
 - Perfect nutrition
 - Protecting factors
 - **Sanitation** quite good
- **Negative aspects**
 - Registration
 - Weighing
 - Drug dosage

Epilogue

- **Improve registration**
- **More accuracy in drug dosage**
better allocation of the drugs that exist
- **Encourage continued breastfeeding**

Thanks to

- **Geir Gunnlaugsson**
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- **The Friday group and instructors**

