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### Evaluation of a modified pre-medication algorithm for non-emergent intubation in a neonatal intensive care unit

Lilah Melzer

*Children's Mercy Hospital*

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Melzer, Lilah, "Evaluation of a modified pre-medication algorithm for non-emergent intubation in a neonatal intensive care unit" (2022). *Research Days*. 15.

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# Evaluation of a Modified Pre-Medication Algorithm for Non- Emergent Intubations in a Level IV NICU

Lilah Melzer, DO PGY-3

Emily McNellis, MD

Alexandra Oschman, PharmD



# Study Background

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendation for emergent intubation premedication<sup>1</sup>
  - Give an analgesic agent or anesthetic dose of a hypnotic drug
  - Consider use of muscle relaxants or vagolytic agents
  - Avoid benzodiazepines when possible

# Study Background continued

- Fentanyl and atropine introduced as premedication
- ICN patient population evolved
- Guideline modified to include higher dose of fentanyl + midazolam + rocuronium
- Effect on intubation success, patient tolerance and personnel compliance was unknown

# Study Objectives

## Primary Objective

- Compare 1st attempt success rate pre vs post modified algorithm

## Secondary Objective

- Assess provider compliance with the modified algorithm

Infants  $\leq$  37 weeks PMA  
**OR**  $\leq$  28 days old

Infants  $>$  37 weeks PMA  
**AND**  $>$  28 days old

Atropine 0.02 mg/kg IV x 1  
Fentanyl 2 or 4 mcg/kg IV x 1

Achieve  
sedation prior  
to  
Rocuronium

\*Consider use of Rocuronium 1 mg/kg \*

Fentanyl 2 or 4 mcg/kg IV x 1  
Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV x 1  
\*Rocuronium 1 mg/kg IV x 1\*

**\*Do not use neuromuscular blockers in:\***

1. Infants with craniofacial anomalies
2. Known difficult airways
3. Prior difficulty with BVM

# Methods

- Retrospective chart review
- Data collected from between January 1, 2015-March 31, 2019
- Patients were excluded if intubation was performed by personnel other than ICN providers
- Data analysis using the Chi Square and Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel tests

# Data collected in RedCap

## Demographic variables

- Post menstrual age, DOL and weight at time of intubation
- Indication for intubation, airway anomaly

## Complications

- Bradycardia, SaO<sub>2</sub> <80%, chest rigidity, need for CPR and/or epinephrine

Complications associated with intubation	
Bradycardia (HR < 80 beats per minute)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
SaO <sub>2</sub> < 80%	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Need for CPR?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Need for epinephrine?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Rigid Chest?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Upper airway injury?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No



# Results

- 151 patients, 239 intubation events
- No significant differences in PMA, weight at intubation or gender between the two groups
- There were more airway anomalies ( $p=0.009$ ), intubation events during 1st week of life ( $p=0.005$ ) and 1st attempts by neonatal fellows ( $p<0.001$ ) in the post-modification group

# Results continued

## Primary outcome

- First attempt success increased from 43% to 52%  
( $p=0.16$ )
- Clinically, but not statistically significant

# Results continued

## Secondary outcome

- Compliance with algorithm improved from 20.3% to 39.5% ( $p=0.002$ )
- Use of a muscle relaxant increased from 3.1% to 63.7% ( $p < 0.001$ )
- Cumulative fentanyl dose increased from 1 mcg/kg to 2 mcg/kg ( $p < 0.001$ )

# Conclusions

- Improved compliance with the algorithm
- Increased use of muscle relaxants
- No statistically difference in 1<sup>st</sup> attempt success rate

# Study Limitations

- Retrospective study
- Too few patients in each weight category to determine affect of algorithm in each subgroup

# Implications

- Small improvement in 1<sup>st</sup> first attempt success rate improves patient safety
- Further QI needed to identify barriers to compliance
- Better compliance needed prior to implementation of INSURE (Intubation-Surfactant-Extubation procedure)

# References

Foglia EE, Ades A, Sawyer T, et al. Neonatal Intubation Practice and Outcomes: An International Registry Study. *Pediatrics*. 2019;143(1):e20180902. doi:10.1542/peds.2018-0902

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