## Pain Assessment of the Critically ill Child: State of the Art

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### **Objectives**

- Define current pain assessment
- Overview the many challenges
- Propose strategies to optimise pain assessment

## How are we doing?

Over 35 neonatal pain measures and more for children

#### More than 10 published reviews

von Bayer et al. Pain 2007;127:140- 50; Stinson et al. Pain 2006; 125:143- 57; Ramelet ACC 2004; 17:33- 45; Duhn et al. Adv Neonatal Care 2004; 4:126- 40 Many protocols have been developed

http://www.racp.edu.au/public/publications.htm http://www.painedu.org/resources.asp

#### Position statements and recommendations

http://www.ampainsoc.org/advocacy/pediatric2.htm Summary Proceedings From the Neonatal Pain- Control Group Pediatrics 2006;117:S9-S22

## Yet Pain is still poorly assessed

19% of NICUs used validated pain measures in Italy Lago et al. Ped Anesth 2005;15:925-31

6%in Australia Harrisson et al. JPaed Child Health 2006; 42:6-9

When assessed regularly, inter-rater reliability of assessments between experienced nurses was poor (0.21-0.64) Katz et al. Europaediatrics Oct 2006; Barcelona

# And current pain management remains suboptimal

- Prospective observational study Simons et al. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2003;157:1058-64.
- To describe the frequency of use of analgesics in invasive procedures
- 151 neonates
- Mean of 14 (± 4) procedures per day
- Pre-emptive procedural analgesia given to 35% of neonates
- 40% received no procedural analgesia

# Morphine for procedural pain in ventilated preterm neonates

Carbajal et al. Pediatrics 2005; 115:1494-500

#### **NEOPAIN** trial

- 42 neonates
- Loading does of 100mcg/Kg + infusion 10-30 mcg/Kg/h vs placebo
- Intervention: 3 heel sticks-before, 3 h, and 20-28 h after loading dose
- Pain scores were not statistically different between groups
- Inadequate analgesia for invasive procedures



#### What are the challenges?

- Accurate assessment, interpretation, and management of pain in critically ill children
- Integration of pain assessment into practice and sustain appropriate use of pain assessment/management strategies

Van Dijk et al. Why not stick to a pain/distress protocol in the PICU? 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on PIC 2007; Geneva

# Why is pain assessment so difficult in the PICU/NICU

- Diverse population/developmental age
- Various pathologies
- Different type of pain: acute, procedural, postoperative, chronic, cancer pain
- Masking effect of sedative/hypnotic agents
- Impaired communication
- Discriminate pain from other adverse conditions
- Various pain management practices
- Skill-mix of assessors

## Pain in critically ill infants

- Description of indicators of persistent pain in critically ill infants is limited Boyle et al. Pain 2006; 124:87-91
- The vigour of behavioural pain responses diminish with severity of illness, duration of noxious stimuli, and gestational age Craig et al. Clin Perinatol 2002; 29:445-57
- There are subtle behavioural changes between intensity and type of pain (e.g. postoperative pain alone and postoperative pain + procedural pain) Ramelet et al. Ped Crit Care Med 2006; 7:19-26; Boyle et al. Pain 2006; 124:87-91
- Children who are pharmacologically paralyzed cannot display behavioural responses

#### Pain scales for the noncommunicative PICU patient

Premature Infant Pain Profile (PIPP)
COMFORT
FLACC
MAPS- Revised©



#### MAPS-Revised ©

- Developed from pain cues observed in postoperative critically ill infants
- 5 categories: vital signs, breathing pattern, facial expressions, body movements, state of arousal
- Possible scores: 0-10
- Tested for reliability, construct, concurrent and convergent validity, and clinical utility

Ramelet et al. Ped Anesthes 2007;17:333-44 Ramelet et al. Ped Anesthes In Press

#### Integrated pain assessment

- **Clinical practice guidelines**
- Pain scoring systems
- Sedation measures
- Target desired level of sedation Curley et al. 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on PIC 2007
- Algorithm to facilitate interpretation of pain and other causes for behaviour Hummel & vanDijk Seminars in Fetal & Neonat Med 2006;11:237-45
- Integrate algorithm into standard practice



#### Impact of pain and sedation assessment Chanques et al. Crit Care Med 2006; 34:1691-99

- Pre/Post test intervention study
- Sample: 230 adult patients; > 24hrs ICU stay
- 20% decrease in incidence of pain
- 18%decreased in incidence of agitation
- Decreased duration of mechanical ventilation (120 vs 55 hrs)
- 10% decrease in nosocomial infections rate



## **Concluding Remarks**

- Pain measures should not be used in isolation
- Standardization of pain assessment in combination with evidence-based algorithm for treatment options may improve pain management
- Effectiveness of pain assessment and treatment combination on health outcomes needs to be tested
- Further research in the decision-making process for pain management in the critically ill is warranted

#### **Greetings from Australia**



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