**Appendix A. Comparison in nutrition practises of hospitals with more and with fewer than 50 admissions of newborns with birth weights of less than 1500 g per year.**

\*To calculate proportions in newborns (NBs) born before 28 weeks’ gestation in hospitals with fewer than 50 admissions, we only included the 25 units that managed this subset of newborns in the denominator. Also, the total count N for both types of units is also changed to 55 in these items.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Units | Large units (N= 30)  n(%) | Small units (N=30)  n(%) | Statistical significance  (*P*) |
| Manage patients <28 wk/1000 g | 30 (100) | 25 (83) |  |
| Have written protocol | 22 (73) | 18 (60) | NS |
| Availability of donor human milk | 10 (33) | 5 (17) | NS |
| Variability within the unit | 16 (53) | 13 (43) | NS |
| Initiation of feeds in the first 24 h:   * In stable NBs <25 wk \*: * In stable NBs 25-27 wk \* * In stable NBs 28-31 wk | 8 (27)  15 (25)  24 (80) | 7 (28)  14 (56)  24 (80) | NS  NS  NS |
| Use of trophic feeding   * In NBs <25 wk\* * In NBs 25-27 wk\* * In NBs 28-31 wk | 14 (47)  7 (23)  1 (2) | 15 (60)  12 (48)  2 (7) | NS  NS  NS |
| Delayed initiation of feeding:   * In the absence of human milk * In NBs < 32 wk with prenatal diagnosis of IUGR | 10 (33)  14 (47) | 11 (37)  8 (27) | NS  NS |
| * In case of abnormal blood flow in umbilical artery * In case of perinatal asphyxia | 14 (47)  27 (90) | 12 (40)  26 (87) | NS  NS |
| * Until meconium is passed * In NBs with umbilical catheters | 2 (7)  5 (17) | 3 (10)  5 (17) | NS  NS |
| Mode of feeding (Continuous enteral feeding [CEF] vs bolus):   * CEF in NBs <25 wk\* | 7 (23) | 12 (48) | NS |
| * CEF in NBs 25-27 wk\* | 5 (17) | 12 (48) | ***P*= .045** |
| * CEF in NBs 28-31 wk | 3 (10) | 4 (13) | NS |
| Feed volume increases in NBs <25 wk\*   * 10cc/kg/day\* * 20cc/kg/day\* | 17 (57)  13 (43) | 14 (56)  11 (44) | NS  NS |
| Feed volume increases in NBs 25-27 wk\*   * 10cc/ kg/day \* * 20cc/ kg/day \* | 12 (40)  18 (60) | 11 (44)  14 (56) | NS  NS |
| Feed volume increases in NBs 28-31 wk   * 10cc/ kg/day * 20cc/ kg/day * 30cc/ kg/day | 6 (20)  20 (67)  4 (13) | 5 (17)  17 (57)  7 (23) | NS  NS  NS |
| Final volume in NBs exclusively fed human milk   * 140-160cc/ kg/day * 161-180cc/ kg/day * 181-200cc/ kg/day | 1 (3)  11 (37)  14 (46) | 1 (3)  8 (27)  20 (67) | NS  NS  NS |
| Final volume in NBs fed fortified human milk   * 140-160cc/ kg/day * 161-180cc/ kg/day * 181-200cc/ kg/day | 6 (20)  15 (50)  9 (30) | 5 (16,6)  15 (50)  8 (27) | NS  NS  NS |
| Final volume in NBs fed preterm formula   * 140-160cc/kg/day * 161-180cc/kg/day * 181-200cc/kg/day | 11 (37)  14 (47)  5 (17) | 10 (33)  14 (47)  6 (20) | NS  NS  NS |
| Routine fortification | 29 (97) | 27 (90) | NS |
| When is fortification initiated?   * Upon reaching a target feed volume | 30 (100) | 24 (80) | NS |
| When is fortification discontinued   * Upon reaching a target weight * Upon reaching a given age * When breastfeeding is established * At the time of discharge | 3 (10)  2 (6,6)  18 (60)  4 (13) | 11 (37)  2 (7)  14 (47)  2 (7) | ***P*= .015**  NS  NS  NS |
| Initiation of fortification with progressive doses | 17 (57) | 20 (67) | NS |
| Preparation of fortifier at the time of each feed | 21 (70) | 20 (67) | NS |
| Vitamin supplementation | 30 (100) | 27 (90) |  |
| Vitamin use   * Multivitamin * Vitamin D | 13 (43)  8 (27) | 8 (27)  15 (50) | NS  NS |
| Fortifier at discharge in NBs with birth weight < 1000 g and exclusive BF | 2 (7) | 7 (28) | NS |
| Type of formula at discharge if human milk not available   * Preterm formula * Standard newborn formula * Low birth weight formula | 20 (67)  5 (17)  4 (13) | 23 (77)  4 (13)  2 (7) | NS  NS  NS |