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Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

ARTICLES OF INTEREST – March 2026

Childhood pulmonary outcomes after late preterm antenatal corticosteroids

Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, Rebecca G Clifton, Robert A Wise, et al. Obstet Gynecol

This follow-up study of the ALPS trial evaluated long-term respiratory outcomes after antenatal betamethasone exposure at $34^0/_7$–$36^6/_7$ weeks. While the original trial showed reduced neonatal respiratory complications, the follow-up assessed a composite outcome of abnormal spirometry, physician-diagnosed asthma with daily medication use, or recent daily asthma medication use. Among children ≥6 years, betamethasone exposure was associated with lower rates of wheezing, with no differences in other respiratory outcomes. The short-term respiratory benefits of late preterm steroids appear to come without long-term respiratory harm, which is reassuring for continued practice in this gestational age group.

Azithromycin for eradication of Ureaplasma and prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in preterm infants: a meta-analysis

Zhe Chen, Zhimei Jiang, Dan Liu, et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed

A meta-analysis of 10 randomized controlled trials and three case series involving 1,723 preterm infants found that prophylactic azithromycin significantly improves outcomes for those testing positive for Ureaplasma. In the overall study population, azithromycin improved Ureaplasma clearance (RR=1.47) and shortened the duration of mechanical ventilation by 2.16 days, supplemental oxygen by 5.46 days, and hospital stays by 4.98 days compared to a placebo. Specifically, for Ureaplasma-positive infants, the treatment

significantly reduced the risk of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)-related death (RR=0.83) and reduced mechanical ventilation duration by 2.20 days. While the evidence quality was rated as low and general benefits were not observed across all preterm infants regardless of infection status, azithromycin was determined to be safe, with no significant increase in complications such as necrotizing enterocolitis or retinopathy.

Histological chorioamnionitis and neurodevelopment at 5 years of age among infants born very preterm: EPIPAGE-2 cohort study

Fanny Salmon, Mathilde Letouzey, Laetitia Marchand-Martin, et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed

This prospective population-based cohort study, part of the EPIPAGE-2 project, investigated the link between isolated histological chorioamnionitis—inflammation of the fetal membranes without clinical symptoms—and neurodevelopmental outcomes in 1,296 very preterm infants (born at 24–31 weeks) at age 5. While 36.3% of the children were born with this condition, the study found no significant association with long-term neurodevelopmental disabilities. Specifically, 47% of exposed children exhibited mild disabilities compared to 33.6% of those unexposed, and moderate-to-severe disabilities occurred in 13.8% versus 13.3%, respectively. However, after adjusting for confounding variables, the odds ratios (aOR) were 1.0 (95% CI 0.7 to 1.4) for mild and 0.9 (95% CI 0.6 to 1.2) for moderate-to-severe disabilities, leading researchers to conclude that isolated histological chorioamnionitis does not appear to increase the risk of adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in this population.

Mesenchymal stromal cell therapy restores intestinal integrity and attenuates inflammation in a preterm piglet model of necrotizing enterocolitis

Jasmine Lee, Sharon Joseph, Krishna Manohar, et al. Pediatr Surg Int.

Mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) have shown promise in murine necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) models. The authors hypothesized that intraperitoneal MSC administration would reduce intestinal injury in NEC. NEC was induced in a preterm piglet model and MSCs were administered intraperitoneally at low, medium, or high doses. Medium-dose MSCs significantly improved clinical scores and reduced both gross and histologic intestinal injury ($p < 0.05$). A corresponding decrease in pro-inflammatory cytokines was observed. This is the first study to demonstrate therapeutic benefit of MSCs in a preterm piglet NEC model, supporting their potential use in translational NEC therapies.

Hypoxanthine-early biomarker of outcomes in an ovine model of neonatal hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy

Jana K Mike, Eesha Natarajan, Janica Ha, et al. Pediatr Res

The authors aimed to identify biomarkers for HIE and define whether these biomarkers are associated with neurologic outcome severity in our ovine model. Study Cohort 1 (n = 46) included lambs with HIE induced via umbilical cord occlusion (UCO) and healthy controls (n = 19). Blood samples collected at multiple early time points were analyzed using untargeted liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry. A total of 145 hypoxia biomarkers were identified, exhibiting a consistent and reproducible temporal pattern across both cohorts. Hypoxanthine level at 20 min of life showed a strong correlation with the severity of neurologic outcomes

The Impact of prematurity on self-reported quality of life in adulthood: a prospective Swedish national cohort study of infants born with extremely low birth weight

Maria Heyman, Helena Grönqvist, Lena Hellström-Westas, et al. J Pediatr

The authors sough to investigate the physical and mental health of a national cohort of Swedish adults born with extremely low birth weight (ELBW, ≤1000 g) and its impact on self-reported health-related quality of life (HRQoL). This prospective, follow-up study was conducted on a Swedish national cohort of individuals born between 1990 and 1992 with a birth weight of ≤1000 g (n = 201), along with a matched control group (n = 327) born appropriate for gestational age at term. Data were collected through web-based questionnaires assessing physical and mental health, including the 36-item Short Form Health Survey version 2 to evaluate HRQoL. Compared with the control group, adult individuals born ELBW had a significantly higher prevalence of physical morbidities. In terms of mental health, developmental and psychiatric conditions were also more prevalent, with the exception of mood disorders. However, there were no significant differences in self-reported HRQoL between ELBW and the control group. The authors conclude that despite a higher prevalence of impairments, ELBW individuals may not perceive themselves as limited in their daily functioning.

Effect of transcatheter closure of the ductus arteriosus on right ventricular function in preterm neonates

Sanjeev Aggarwal, Gilda Kadiu and Girija Natarajan. Pediatr Cardiol

A large non-restricted left-to-right shunt across a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) with the resultant volume and pressure load may impact right ventricle (RV) function. The authors

sough to compare RV function on echocardiogram before and soon after transcatheter closure of PDA in preterm neonates. This single-center retrospective study included preterm infants ≤ 2 kg who underwent PDA transcatheter closure. Echocardiograms before and within 24 h after transcatheter closure were analyzed by a single reader for i) Tricuspid Annular Plane systolic excursion (TAPSE), ii) RV Velocity Time Integral (VTI) outflow, iii) RV Fractional area change (FAC), iv) Systolic-to-diastolic time (SD) ratio from the tricuspid valve regurgitation, and v) Stroke distance, the product of VTI and heart rate. The cohort had a mean (Standard Deviation) gestational age of 24.9 (1.9) weeks and birth weight of 742 (244) grams. The median (IQR) age at procedure was 29 (21-45) days. The authors found evidence of RV dysfunction (abnormal TAPSE in 14%, FAC in 66.5% and SD in 100%) at baseline with significant improvement 24 h after device closure in RV VTI, FAC, SD, stroke distance, and myocardial performance index. The authors conclude that among preterm infants with a PDA, transcatheter closure was associated with significant short-term improvement in RV systolic function.

Agreement between telemedicine and in-person examination for neonatal hypothermia decisions

Jawahar Jagarapu, Dimitrios Angelis, Imran N Mir, et al. Pediatrics

This study included 85 infants from two academic medical centers who received 170 Sarnat assessments to help assess for hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. All infants received both in-person (IP) and telemedicine (TM) assessments. The authors found almost perfect agreement between IP and TM assessments regarding signs of moderate or severe HIE ($\kappa = 0.82$) and the decision for hypothermia intervention ($\kappa = 0.82$), and fair to moderate agreement ($\kappa = 0.33$-0.58) for individual categories of the neurologic examination. The authors concluded that remote Sarnat evaluations can aid expedited assessments and help determine earlier therapeutic interventions.

Cost-effectiveness of Nirsevimab and maternal RSVpreF immunization strategies in low-risk infants

Sean Tsung, Yan Bo Zeng, Kevan Shah, et al. Pediatrics

This study compared three immunization strategies for healthy low-risk infants: no immunization, a mixed strategy of RSVpreF (for pregnant patients at 32 to 36 weeks' gestation) and nirsevimab (for infants aged less than 8 months), and nirsevimab only to prevent RSV-associated lower respiratory tract infections. From the societal perspective, the mixed strategy was cost-effective compared with no immunization ($117,848/Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALY)). Due to higher product costs, nirsevimab alone was not cost-

effective compared with the mixed strategy ($347,821/QALY). However, if RSVpreF was not an option, the nirsevimab-only strategy would be cost-effective compared with no immunization ($134,391/QALY). The authors concluded that pediatricians and obstetricians should both recommend RSV immunizations, as the ACIP-recommended mixed RSVpreF and nirsevimab strategy is a societally cost-effective method to protect infants.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS – March 2026

Pediatrics

Sudden unexpected infant death in inclined sleepers: 2009–2023
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41724190

Maternal diabetes and risk of epilepsy in offspring
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41633502

Neurodevelopmental outcomes 12 years after extremely preterm birth in Sweden
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41638598

Agreement between telemedicine and in-person examination for neonatal hypothermia decisions
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41628893

Cost-effectiveness of nirsevimab and maternal RSVpreF immunization strategies in low-risk infants
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41713490

The role and safety of aluminum adjuvants in childhood vaccines
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41334965

Hospital-acquired citrobacter meningitis complicated by pneumocephalus in a neonate
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41734809

Recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule: United States, 2026: Policy Statement
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Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP): Technical Report
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41724195

Journal of Pediatrics

Neonatal multimorbidity is a poor predictor of health and developmental outcomes after preterm birth
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41391543/

Effect of systemic hydrocortisone in ventilated infants born preterm: mortality and 5.5-year neurodevelopmental outcomes of a randomized clinical trial
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41391545/

Prediction of language development in neonates born at less than 32 weeks of gestation
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41418979/
A prospective, multicenter, observational study of premedication before laryngoscopy in neonates (supremeneo)
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41429284/
Antenatal corticosteroids and risk of cerebral palsy: a regression discontinuity study
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41448265/
Maternal-fetal environment and neurodevelopment in patients with single ventricle heart disease
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41389933/

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Filtered-sunlight phototherapy for neonatal hyperbilirubinemia: context matters
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40973744/
Safe use of human milk for preterms in the context of maternal polypharmacy: a framework to improve practices
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40998998/
Definitions and monitoring methods for apnea in preterm infants: a scoping review
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40355540/
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40983692/
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40819183/
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40760173/
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41507398/

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Betaine improves hyperoxic lung injury through downregulating pulmonary macrophage pyroptosis in newborn mice
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Long-term multi-organ system abnormalities in mice exposed to antenatal and postnatal corticosteroids
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Family reflections: what's next for hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE)—a patient advocacy perspective
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Incorporating stressors during simulated neonatal endotracheal intubation creates a stress response but does not affect performance: a randomised pilot study
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Diffuse white matter abnormality is independently predictive of neurodevelopmental outcomes in preterm infants
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Variations in antibiotic use in late preterm and term newborns from 2012 to 2020: a nationwide population-based observational study
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Transition off respiratory support for very preterm infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia: an observational study of national audit data in England and Wales
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Does whole-body in-utero MRI in those with suspected fetal abnormalities improve antenatal care? A single-centre retrospective cohort study
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The effect of breastfeeding experience presented with virtual reality on breastfeeding self-efficacy and breastfeeding motivation: a randomized controlled trial
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41083815
Short-term and long-term effects of vitamin D supplementation for preterm infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis
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Prenatal repair of myelomeningocele is associated with lower need for long-term feeding support
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Improving timing of early neonatal hypoglycemia screening in the well-baby nursery
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Reference values of cerebral fractional tissue oxygen extraction in preterm neonates during immediate foetal-to-neonatal transition: a secondary outcome analysis of the COSGOD III trial
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Seizure burden before and after lidocaine as add-on therapy in (amplitude-integrated) electroencephalography-confirmed neonatal seizures
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Development and verification of a new method for evaluating facial expressions based on the premature infant pain profile-revised
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Perinatal-onset neuronopathic Gaucher disease is refractory to high-dose Ambroxol: a case report and literature review
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Congenital erythropoietic porphyria in a neonate: utility of rapid whole genome sequencing – a case report
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Deferred cord clamping in very preterm triplets and outcomes: a retrospective cohort study
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Devices for neonatal peripheral catheterization and tip confirmation: a systematic review and meta-analysis
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41171990
Why is neonatal evidence mainly of very low or low certainty: a meta-epidemiological review of Cochrane neonatal reviews
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41379741

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A novel and modern calculator to predict vaginal birth after cesarean delivery
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40355120/
Using measures of psychological resilience to predict burnout among NICU nurses
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40368420/
The anti-inflammatory peptide rls-0071 reduces immune cell recruitment and oxidative damage in a neonatal rat model of hypoxic–ischemic encephalopathy
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Comparison of different risk assessment models for predicting post discharge phototherapy requirement in term and late preterm neonates

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Association between maternal body mass index, skin incision-to-delivery time, and umbilical artery pH in cesarean deliveries
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40425147/
Maternal area of residence and outcomes for mother–infant dyads with perinatal opioid exposure
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40436395/
Frequency of fentanyl-adulterated street drugs consumed by mothers with substance use: the value of umbilical cord testing
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Current practice of kidney support therapy in the NICU: results from a CHNC survey
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40334686/
Association of food insecurity and short-term kidney outcomes in neonates
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40555275/
Prenatal diagnosis and 10-year follow-up of type-ii generalized arterial calcification of the infancy
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40480277/
Microplastics and the placenta: a call to action for perinatal research
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40675609/

Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
No new articles

Maternal Health, Neonatology and Perinatology
Early dyadic interventions for critically ill neonates: a scoping review
https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1186/s40748-026-00252-z.pdf

Neoreviews
Neonatal nutrition in low- and middle-income countries: promoting growth and development
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763574

Pulmonary hypertension in infants who are premature
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763572
In utero CFTR modulator therapy in fetuses with cystic fibrosis
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763571
Basic ventilator graphics in the NICU: a practical overview
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763577
Ventilator control variables: pressure control, volume control, and adaptive targeting of pressure control
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763573
Newborn with abnormal ECG and family history of sudden cardiac arrest
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763575
Fetomaternal hemorrhage in pregnancy
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763576
Bilious vomiting in a neonate: a diagnostic challenge
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41763578

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Hospital formula supplementation postbreastfeeding initiation, neighborhood economy, and race
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41460516/

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Neonatal carbamoyl phosphate synthetase I deficiency with severe hyperammonemic coma: the first report from Palestine
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41917863/
Neonatal sepsis: any role for procalcitonin as a diagnostic marker?
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Effectiveness of Preterm Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI) on oral feeding readiness among preterm infants: a quasi-experimental study
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41896796/
Association between maternal MTHFR and MTRR gene polymorphisms and the risk of congenital heart disease in newborns

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Predictive model integrating two-dimensional ultrasound indicators and hemodynamic features for fetal coarctation of the aorta
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41888765/
Lung ultrasound for neonatal respiratory distress in a resource-limited county hospital: a pilot study
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Nephrolithiasis associated with sulfadiazine therapy in an infant with congenital toxoplasmosis: a case report
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Blood pressure trajectories in extreme preterm infants with and without bronchopulmonary dysplasia: a longitudinal cohort study
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41857529/
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https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41851706/
A comprehensive diagnostic model based on serum MMP-7: a convenient and efficient early diagnostic method for biliary atresia
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Patterns, survival, and mortality predictors in children with down syndrome and congenital heart disease in resource-limited settings: a follow-up study
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41851657/

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Preoperative extracorporeal membrane oxygenation in children with dextro-transposition of the great arteries: extracorporeal life support organization registry study, 2000–2022
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41489438/
Death by neurologic criteria in neonates undergoing extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: extracorporeal life support organization registry study, 2010–2023
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Perioperative monitoring of regional oxygen saturation in congenital heart disease: systematic review of literature up to 2023
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41524467/

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No new articles

JAMA
No new articles

NEJM
No new articles

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Prenatal antiseizure drug exposure and risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children: population based cohort study
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41813017/

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The role of expanded targeted testing in enhancing early detection of congenital cytomegalovirus: a cohort study
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41214478/
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Distal transverse arch dimensions dictate long-term aortic arch gradients following coarctation of the aorta repair during early infancy
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