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NON-INVASIVE NAVA AS AN INITIAL METHOD OF ARTIFICIAL VENTILATION IN A PREMATURE NEWBORN WITH EXTREMELY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT. CLINICAL CASE

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Abstract. Optimal respiratory support in newborns with critical body weight is one of the priorities in providing quality medical care. Currently, the criteria for effective ventilation are not only a stable level of saturation and reference values of blood gas composition, but also maintaining a balance between the proposed respiratory support and the respiratory needs of the child. In addition, a very important condition for protective ventilation in these patients is minimizing mechanical impact, which plays a key role in the development of ventilator-induced lung damage and bronchopulmonary dysplasia. In this regard, approaches to initial respiratory support must be not only justified, but also safe. A clinical case of the successful use of non-invasive NAVA ventilation as a starting method of respiratory support in premature newborns with a birth weight of 660 g is presented. The parameters of focal echocardiography are analyzed; the dynamics of X-ray images and blood gas parameters are presented. The influence of this regimen on the efficiency of spontaneous breathing and the general condition of the child was assessed.

Keywords: premature newborns, NAVA ventilation, extremely low birth weight, focal echocardiography, non-invasive ventilation

НЕИНВАЗИВНАЯ NAVA В КАЧЕСТВЕ СТАРТОВОГО МЕТОДА ИСКУССТВЕННОЙ ВЕНТИЛЯЦИИ ЛЕГКИХ У НЕДОНОШЕННОГО НОВОРОЖДЕННОГО С ЭКСТРЕМАЛЬНО НИЗКОЙ МАССОЙ ТЕЛА ПРИ РОЖДЕНИИ. КЛИНИЧЕСКИЙ СЛУЧАЙ

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Резюме. Оптимальная респираторная поддержка у новорожденных с критической массой тела — одна из приоритетных задач при оказании качественной медицинской помощи. В настоящее время критериями эффективной вентиляции являются не только устойчивый уровень сатурации и референсные значения газового состава крови, но и сохранение баланса между предложенной респираторной поддержкой и дыхательными потребностями ребенка. Кроме того, немаловажным условием протективной вентиляции у данных пациентов является минимизация механического воздействия, которое играет ключевую роль

PRACTICAL NOTES

в развитии вентилятор-индуцированного повреждения легких и бронхолегочной дисплазии. В связи с этим подходы к стартовой респираторной поддержке должны быть не только обоснованными, но и безопасными. Представлен клинический случай успешного применения неинвазивной нервно-регулируемой вентиляции легких (NAVA-вентиляции) в качестве стартового метода респираторной поддержки у недоношенного ребенка с массой тела при рождении 660 г. Проанализированы параметры фокусной эхокардиографии, представлена динамика рентгенологических снимков и показателей газового состава крови. Оценено влияние данного режима на эффективность спонтанного дыхания и общее состояние ребенка.

Ключевые слова: недоношенные новорожденные, NAVA-вентиляция, экстремально низкая масса тела при рождении, фокусная эхокардиография, неинвазивная вентиляция легких

INTRODUCTION

Использование современных стратегий проведThe use of modern strategies of artificial lung ventilation (ALV) in preterm neonates has led to an increase in their survival rate. However, the high incidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia and ventilator-induced damage makes the problem of choosing the optimal mode and parameters of ALV extremely urgent [1].

One of the "sparing" methods is Volume Guarantee Ventilation, which is increasingly used in neonatology. It is adaptive ventilation that uses complex computer algorithms to provide patients with a given respiratory volume [2]. It can reduce lung damage involving the precise delivery of a set respiratory volume [3]. Volume Guarantee ventilation is different from traditional volume-controlled ventilation. During VG ventilation, airflow is used to provide a set respiratory volume, whereas ventilation control is pressure-based. In modern ventilators, respiratory volume measurement is made possible through the use of a proximal flow sensor. It allows to control the respiratory volume and to correct ventilation parameters in time, thus minimizing the risks of lung volumetric injury [4].

Another modern strategy of respiratory support in preterm infants is the use of neurally regulated ventilation, which uses the electrical signal of the diaphragm as a trigger for the initiation of a machine breath [5]. J. Beck showed that Neurally Adjusted Ventilatory Assist (NAVA-ventilation) is a kind of respiratory prosthesis, where the diaphragm and the ventilator equally support breathing and provide respiratory support not only synchronously, but also in proportion to the patient's needs [6]. Studies performed by a group of authors led by M. Wu, also demonstrated qualitative interaction between the patient and ventilator in NAVA mode, both in adults and children [7].

Preterm newborns, especially those with very low and extremely low birth weight, are highly sensitive to changes in intrathoracic pressure and respiratory volume fluctuations, so the choice of ventilator mode should be reasonable and effective [8]. Methodological recommendations for the management of newborns with respiratory distress syndrome do not provide a specific mode of ventilatory support, which makes it possible for a resuscitator or neonatologist to take a non-standard approach to the choice of respiratory support. That is why we would like to present a clinical case of using non-invasive NAVA ventilation in a baby with a body weight of 660 g as a starting mode of ventilation.

AIM

To evaluate the efficacy of non-invasive NAVA ventilation as a starting method of respiratory therapy in a premature neonate with a birth weight of 660 g.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the course of the research there have been analyzed: resuscitation card, observation sheets, which included heart rate, blood pressure and saturation indices, diuresis rate. In addition, X-rays, neurosonography and echocardiography were analyzed. The dynamics of changes in blood gas composition and electrical activity of the diaphragm assessed by graphic monitoring in NAVA mode is also presented.

Within the framework of focal echocardiography, myocardial preload was evaluated to exclude hypovolemia and fluid overload, myocardial contractility and cardiac afterload [9]. Myocardial contractility was determined by ejection fraction and shortening fraction, afterload — by measuring left ventricular wall stress (ESWS — end systolic wall stress) during systole using the formula:

ESWS (
$$\frac{r}{c m^2}$$
) = 1,35-АД ср- $\frac{KCP}{4$ -ТЗСЛЖ с·(1+ТЗСЛЖ с/КСР)}.

In addition, open ductus arteriosus was diagnosed, its diameter and significance for systemic and cerebral blood flow were determined.

CLINICAL CASE

Child P., date of birth 19.12.2023. Birth weight 660 g, height 30 cm, Apgar score 6–7 points, boy. Obstetric diagnosis of the mother: premature delivery by cesarean section at 28 weeks. Intrauterine fetal hypoxia before delivery. Insufficient fetal growth. Scar on the uterus. Chronic nicotine addiction. Candida vaginitis. Laparotomy. Caesarean section according to Gusakov. From the history of the mother, it is known that the present pregnancy is the 6th, delivery is the 2nd. Has one healthy child of eleven years old. Natural miscarriages in 2014, 2016, 2019 and 2020. Registered at the antenatal clinic for the last pregnancy in the last 8 weeks. At 15 weeks there was a suspicion of fetal genetic abnormality, but the diagnosis was not confirmed by chorionbiopsy. From the 21st week onward, there was delayed fetal growth, amniotic masses in the uterine cavity, and uteroplacental blood flow abnormalities. Uterine and fetoplacental blood flow disorders at 26 weeks. At 27 weeks, the mother had an acute viral infection.

On 19.12.2023 at the term of 28 weeks and 3 days a boy was born by cesarean section. At birth, the condition was severe, due to respiratory failure, deep immaturity. From the first minutes respiratory support was carried out in the form of non-invasive ventilation with positive pressure at the end of exhalation, followed by transition to nasal ventilation with intermittent positive pressure. Taking into account the persisting oxygen demand of 60% at the 10th minute, noninvasive administration of surfactant preparation 200 mg/kg was performed. A peripheral venous catheter was placed, infusion therapy was started, and colostrum was given. By the 30th minute, the neonate was stabilized in a heat-saving film in a transport cuvette on noninvasive ventilation in the mode of nasal ventilation with intermittent positive pressure, he was transported to the intensive care unit N 7 of the Irkutsk Regional Perinatal Center.

Upon admission to the intensive care unit, the child was examined: review chest radiography,

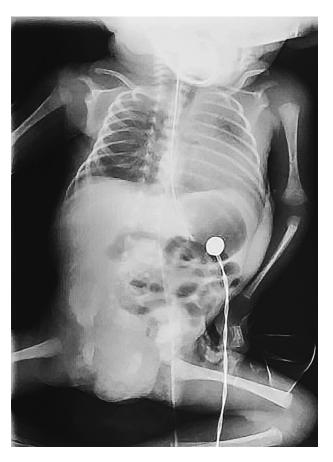


Fig. 1. X-ray of the chest organs in the first hour of life

Рис. 1. Рентгенография окружности грудной клетки, выполненная в первый час жизни



Fig. 2. X-ray of the chest organs. Dynamics after 6 hours from the moment of birth

Рис. 2. Рентгенография окружности грудной клетки. Динамика через 6 часов с момента рождения

PRACTICAL NOTES

Table 1. Hemodynamic profile according to focal echocardiographic

Таблица 1. Гемодинамический профиль по данным фокусной эхокардиографии

Сутки / Day	Объемный кровоток в легоч- ной артерии (мл/кг в минуту) / Volumetric blood flow in the pulmonary artery (ml/kg per minute)	d ОАП (мм) / d DA (mm)	LA/Ao	Ri ΠMA / Ri ACA	ФВ ЛЖ (%) / EF LV (%)	ФУ ЛЖ (%) / FS LV (%)	ESWS rp/cm²/ g/cm²
1	435	0,2	1,33	1,0	77,8	40,9	28
2	372	0,18	1,2	0,79	72,5	38,9	38
3	305	0,1	1,1	0,76	76,5	41,3	35
4	288	_	1,1	0,75	77,4	41,9	37

Note: DA — ductus arteriosus; ACA — anterior cerebral artery; EF LF — ejection fraction left ventricular; FS LV — fractional shortening left ventricular.

Примечание: ОАП — открытый артериальный проток; ПМА — передняя мозговая артерия, ФВ ЛЖ — фракция выброса левого желудочка, ФУ ЛЖ – фракция укорочения левого желудочка.

Table 2. The blood gas parameters in the first 3 days

Таблица 2. Показатели газового состава крови в первые трое суток

Сутки / Day	рН	pCO ₂	pO ₂ ,	BE	HCO₃	Лактат / Lactate
1	7,29 [7,14; 7,35]	46,1 [37,6; 53,3]	40,5 [30,3; 53,9]	-4,2 [-9,4; +1,5]	20,3 [16,1; 24,2]	2,2 [1,7; 2,6]
2	7,33 [7,22; 7,37]	43,2 [33,6; 48,9]	38,6 [33,2; 51,1]	-3,1 [-5,4; +0,3]	21,1 [17,5; 23,0]	1,9 [1,2; 2,0]
3	7,31 [7,21; 7,39]	41,0 [32,5; 46,0]	39,4 [32,9; 48,8]	-4,0 [-7,8; -1,1]	20,7 [16,8; 21,9]	2,1 [1,0; 2,3]



Fig. 3. Graphical monitoring of electrical activity of the diaphragm

Рис. 3. Графический мониторинг электрической активности диафрагмы

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focal echocardiography, neurosonography, laboratory and bacteriologic screening were performed.

RESULTS

According to the chest radiography performed on admission, the was a radiographic picture of severe respiratory distress syndrome, pronounced decrease in left lung airiness (Fig. 1).

However, taking into account effective spontaneous breathing and stable saturation level of more than 95%, the child was transferred to noninvasive NAVA. After 6 hours, a review radiography of the chest was repeatedly performed. There was a distinct positive dynamics in the form of restoration of airiness of both lungs (Fig. 2).

According to the results of focal echocardiography performed on the first day of life, there was an increase in the volume blood flow in the pulmonary artery and the presence of an open ductus arteriosus with cerebral blood flow disturbance of hypoperfusion type.

On the second day of life, a moderate increase in the volume blood flow in the pulmonary artery remained, the arterial duct remained open, but there was restoration of blood flow in the cerebral vessels. On the third day of life, the volume blood flow in the pulmonary artery normalized, the arterial duct decreased more than 2 times, cerebral and mesenteric blood flows were not disturbed. On the fourth day the arterial duct spontaneously closed. Myocardial contractility was not disturbed, afterload corresponded to the age norm (Table 1).

No pathologic changes were observed in the blood gas composition during the first three days, and pH, pCO₂, pO₂, BE and lactate indices corresponded to the reference values (Table 2).

Graphical analysis of diaphragm electrical activity reflected good neuromuscular interaction and efficient operation of the respiratory musculature. The median values of maximum diaphragm electrical activity were [5.6;18.8]cmHg/ μ V, indicating adequate respiratory support proportional to the child's needs (Fig. 3).

DISCUSSION

The clinical case is fully justified using non-invasive NAVA as a starting regimen of respiratory therapy. If spontaneous breathing is preserved, it does not only synchronize the machine breaths with the child's respiratory attempt, but also performs them in proportion to the child's needs by analyzing the strength of muscle contraction. This allows to avoid excessive ventilation, maintaining the constancy of

the blood gas composition. According to the data of chest radiography, the recovery of lung airiness was noted in 6 hours, and the child did not require "toughening" of ventilation parameters. It is shown that this method of ventilation has no negative effect on systemic and cerebral hemodynamics. NAVA created the pressure that does not affect the contractility of myocardium and left ventricular afterload, thus does not interfere with restructuring of blood circulation in the first day of life.

Thus, the use of noninvasive NAVA as a starting method of respiratory support in profoundly premature neonates is not only possible, but also promising. Rapid recovery of pulmonary function, stabilization of systemic and cerebral hemodynamics are the result of effective ventilation as close as possible to physiological breathing.

CONCLUSION

Not so long ago, the possibility of preserving spontaneous breathing in a profoundly premature infant was out of the question. As a rule, resuscitation in the delivery room ended with tracheal intubation and transfer to forced ventilation. Now the use of intelligent modes of non-invasive ventilation allows to completely revise this tactic. Nowadays, the use of intelligent modes of non-invasive ventilation allows to completely revise this tactic and use those ventilation methods that preserve and maintain effective independent breathing of the child from the first minutes of life.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author contribution. Thereby, all authors made a substantial contribution to the conception of the study, acquisition, analysis, interpretation of data for the work, drafting and revising the article, final approval of the version to be published and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the study.

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прочли и одобрили финальную версию перед публикацией.

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