Length of Stay, Outcome and Nosocomial Infection among Neonates Admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in El-Karak Governmental Hospital, Jordan

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Abstract
The current study utilized a descriptive prospective cohort research design, aiming to identify and describe the determinants length of stay and outcome, and to study the epidemiological pattern and determinants of nosocomial infection among neonates admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in El-Karak Governmental Hospital, Jordan. A total number of 135 neonates admitted to the NICU during the period from January to December 2004 were constituted the subjects of the present study. The required data were obtained through a pre-designed, pre-coded neonatal profile sheet constructed by the researchers after reviewing the relevant literature. The study results revealed that, the highest percentage of neonates stayed from two to seven days in the unit. The majority of the neonates were discharged alive from the unit. The mortality rate among neonates was 14%. Almost two fifths of the neonates suspected to have sepsis on admission, while less than fifth of them acquired sepsis during their hospital stay. There were highly statistically significant relationships between the length of stay of the neonates and their health problems and birth weight, highly statistically significant relationships were found between the hospital outcome of the neonates and their health problems, gestational age and birth weight. There were a statistically significant relationship between the occurrence of nosocomial infection and the birth weight of the neonates. The study recommended that, staff development programs should be developed based on need assessment in order to upgrade physicians’ and nurses’ knowledge and performance regarding the application of the infection control measures in the NICUs.

Key words: Length Stay, Outcome, Nosocomial Infection among, Neonates Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, El-Karak Governmental Hospital, Jordan.