

## **P 8. THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS IN MONGOLIA**

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**Background:** In Mongolia about 50000 deliveries per year and 40% of them deliveries are in rural areas. Infant mortality decreased from 63.4 per 1000 births in 1990 to 17.8 in 2007. Although LBW occur in 4.2-6.4 % of total live births in Mongolia (Health indicators of MOH, 2006), it is an important contributor to infant mortality. Neonatal mortality rate of newborns with less than 2,500 g is 76.8 per 1000 births whereas it is 44.2 for babies with 2,500-3,000 g of birth weight which is almost twice less [MOH, "Reproductive Health Survey", 1998].

**Objectives:** To determine main causes and influential factors to the morbidity and mortality of low birth weight infants.

**Study design:** There was carried out a descriptive study on medical histories of 3182 neonates, treated in the NICU of MCHRC during the period of 2006-2007.

**Results:** We found the following main causes of morbidity of low birth weight infants: LBW morbidity rate estimated is 22 times more than of those born with normal birth weight. The main causes of morbidity were asphyxia (37%), respiratory distress syndrome (25%), neonatal infections (12%), hypothermia (7%) and hyperbilirubinemia (6%). Main cause of mortality 36.9 is neonatal infection, 28% conditions related to the prematurity and 13% congenital malformation. LBW newborn is most vulnerable to hypothermia. They were at 3.7 fold increased risk for hypothermia than normal weight babies. 26% of morbidity and 48% of neonate mortality rate in the neonatology pathology department were low birth weight infants.

**Conclusions:** Birth asphyxia and RDS are main causes of mortality and infection and conditions related to prematurity are main causes of mortality among neonates in Mongolia.

**Key words:** neonatal mortality, mortality, LBW