



Nutrition and Growth of Preterm Neonates during Hospitalization: Impact on Childhood Outcomes

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Message from the Guest Editors

Extrauterine growth delay in premature neonates is linked with adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in later life. According to Barker’s hypothesis, LBW neonates have increased risks of coronary heart disease, hypertension and type 2 diabetes in adult life.

Very premature neonates lack optimal postnatal growth in their ‘third trimester’ of life, due to a combination of factors, including issues with feeding, gut immaturity and high energy requirements (RDS, infections, and rapid brain growth).

As a result, the first few weeks after birth are characterised by a mismatch between the nutritional needs and nutritional intake of premature neonates, which is much more pronounced for the sickest neonates among them. Since the early 2000s, enteral and parenteral feeding policies have changed, in an effort to address the aforementioned problem.

We aim for this Special Issue to include research and reviews pertaining to these controversies, and provide insights into the nutrition, growth charts and development of the whole spectrum of premature neonates, along with the effect of those on their childhood outcomes.





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