



CT VS Transcranial Ultrasound-A Diagnostic Tool in Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy-A 2 Year Study

Authors

Shamim Nisa¹, P.K. Mishra², V. Goguldeep³, B.B. Panda⁴, B. Das⁵, S. Bhagat⁶

^{1,4,5}Associate Professors, VIMSAR, Burla

^{2,3}PG Residents, VIMSAR, Burla

⁶Professor and HOD, VIMSAR, Burla

Corresponding Author

V. Goguldeep

PG Resident, VIMSAR, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha-768017,India

Email: goguldr@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy (HIE) is a neurological manifestation in neonates due to asphyxia to the fetus- intranatal, natal and post natal period.

The study was conducted to evaluate imaging findings in preterm and term infants diagnosed clinically as HIE. 60 cases with birth asphyxia during DEC 2013 to NOV 2015 were subjected to transcranial USG & CT scan evaluation. Results were compared and found USG superior to CT scan in premature infants

Keywords: *Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, CT, USG, Birth asphyxia, preterm and term.*

INTRODUCTION

HIE is a disturbed neurological function in neonates manifested by difficulty with initiating and maintaining respiration, depression of tone and reflexes, subnormal level of consciousness & often seizures. HIE is the morbid consequence of perinatal asphyxia which leads to permanent damage to CNS and finally result in either neonatal death or make them neurologically handicapped. It is a major long term neurological sequel in childhood and has been a major concern to both the neonatologist and the neurologist. Till 1980 CT was accepted the method for demonstrating the brain in neonates and infants. But it is expensive, time consuming and has radiation hazards. In contrast

transcranial USG is straight forward, easy, cost effective and has no ionizing radiation.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

- To detect the presence of intracranial changes in preterm/full term infants suffering from birth asphyxia by transcranial USG and CT scan
- To correlate and compare both the modalities
- To follow the sequelae and the changes over an year

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A prospective study of 60 cases (36 preterm and 24 term infants) with clinical features of neonatal intracranial hypoxic ischemia was conducted during the period between Dec 2013 to Nov 2015 in the department of Radio diagnosis, VIMSAR, Burla.. The present study was undertaken to assess the neurosonographic abnormalities in preterm and full term infants with moderate to severe birth asphyxia with the help of transfontanelle sector real time USG and CT scan

A provisional clinical staging of HIE was based on modified Sarnat & Sarnat method. Transcranial USG was done in PHILIPS HD 7 machine with grey scale imaging. .

RESULTS

Table 1.

9 Cases of periventricular injury was diagnosed on USG, whereas CT diagnosed only 4 cases, 3 cases of brainstem injury were diagnosed on CT whereas USG diagnosed none, 7 cases of diffuse cerebral injury were diagnosed on USG, whereas CT diagnosed 4 cases .

TABLE - 1 : IMAGING FEATURES (CT & USG) IN PRETERM

SL NO.	IMAGING FEATURES	CT		USG		P Value	Significance
		NO OF CASES	%	NO OF CASES	%		
1	GERMINAL MATRIX HEMORRHAGE & IVH (GMH & IVH)	8	22.2%	8	22.2%	1.000	Not Significant
2	PERIVENTRICULAR LEUKOMALACIA (PVE/PWV)	4	11.1%	9	25.0%	0.119	Not Significant
3	DIFFUSE INJURY (DI)	4	11.1%	7	19.4%	0.322	Not Significant
4	BASAL GANGLIA & THALAMIC INJURY (CGI/BGI)	5	13.9%	5	13.9%	1.000	Not Significant
5	BRAINSTEM HEMORRHAGE (BH)	3	8.3%	3	8.3%	1.000	Not Significant
6	BRAINSTEM INFARCTS (BSI)	3	8.3%	0	0.0%	0.040	Significant
7	PARENCHYMAL HEMORRHAGE (IPH)	2	5.6%	1	2.8%	0.554	Not Significant
8	CEREBELLAR HEMORRHAGE (CbH)	1	2.8%	1	2.8%	1.000	Not Significant
9	MFH	2	5.6%	1	2.8%	0.554	Not Significant
10	NORMAL (N)	13	36.1%	8	22.2%	0.190	Not Significant

TABLE 2: IMAGING IN TERMS

SL NO.	IMAGING FEATURES	CT		USG		P Value	Significance
		NO OF CASES	%	NO OF CASES	%		
1	MULTIFOCAL HYPODENSITIES (MFH)	6	25.0%	2	8.3%	0.112	Not Significant
2	CORTICAL & SUBCORTICAL INJURY (CI&SCI)	5	20.8%	2	8.3%	0.213	Not Significant
3	PARASAGITTAL INJURY (PSI)	2	8.3%	0	0.0%	0.140	Not Significant
4	BASAL GANGLIA INJURY (CGI/BGI)	3	12.5%	3	12.5%	1.000	Not Significant
5	BRAINSTEM INJURY (BSI)	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	0.307	Not Significant
6	DIFFUSE CEREBRAL EDEMA (DI)	5	20.8%	12	50.0%	0.027	Significant
7	INTRAVENTRICULAR HEMORRHAGE (IVH)	4	16.7%	4	16.7%	1.000	Not Significant
8	BRAINSTEM HEMORRHAGE (BH)	1	4.2%	1	4.2%	1.000	Not Significant
9	PARENCHYMAL HEMORRHAGE (IPH)	2	8.3%	1	4.2%	0.550	Not Significant
10	EXTRA-AXIAL HEMORRHAGE (EAH)	2	8.3%	0	0.0%	0.140	Not Significant
11	NORMAL (N)	3	12.5%	10	41.7%	0.213	Not Significant

Table 2. Diffuse cerebral echogenicities with effaced cortical sulci suggesting edema was the most common findings on USG seen in 12 neonates where CT suggested multifocal hypodensities and diffuse cerebral injury occurring almost in equal proportions in terms.

TABLE 3 PRETERMS Vs TERMS

	GESTATIONAL AGE	
	<37WEEKS (preterms)	>37 WEEKS (terms)
CT ABNORMALITIES	23 (63.8%)	21(87.5%)
USG ABNORMALITIES	28 (77.7%)	16(66.7%)

CT detected abnormalities in 23 preterms (63.8%) and 21 terms(87.5%), whereas USG detected abnormalities in 28 preterms (77.7%) and 16 terms(66.7%).

TABLE NO.4 CLINICAL FEATURES Vs IMAGING AT FOLLOW -UP IN PRETERMS

(A) CT

CT FINDINGS	CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS				TOTAL
	FOCAL SEIZURE	RECURRENT SEIZURE	SPASTIC DIPLEGIA	CEREBRAL PALSY	
NORMAL	1	0	0	0	1
CEREBRAL ATROPHY	0	2 (50%)	0	2(50%)	4
VENTRICULAR DILATATION	0	1(25%)	0		1
MULTICYSTIC ENCEPHALOMALACIA	0	0	2(75%)	2 (1 neonate also presented with diplegia)	4
PORENCEPHALY	0	1(also presented with diplegia)	0	0	1
PVE WITH CYSTS	0	0	1(25%)	0	1
TOTAL	1	4	3	4	12

B.USG:

USG FINDINGS	CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS				TOTAL
	FOCAL SEIZURE	RECURRENT SEIZURE	SPASTIC DIPLEGIA	CEREBRAL PALSY	
NORMAL	1	0	0	2(50%)	3
CEREBRAL ATROPHY	0	2(50%)	0	0	2
VENTRICULAR DILATATION	0	1(25%)	0	0	1
MULTICYSTIC ENCEPHALOMALACIA	0	0	2(75%)	2(50%)	4
PORENCEPHALY	0	1(also presented with diplegia)	0	0	1
PVE WITH CYSTS	0	0	1(25%)	0	1
TOTAL	1	4	3	4	12

Table 4. Of the infants presenting with recurrent seizure and spastic diplegia had cerebral atrophy and multi-cystic encephalopathy respectively in both the imaging modalities. These findings were noted in both the pre-term and term babies.

DISCUSSION

Table 1 (Imaging Vs Age at presentation in preterms and terms)

Most cases of PVWI was diagnosed on USG, whereas CT diagnosed less number of cases, which

tally with other studies as Siegel M.N., Shoekel Ford GD, Perlman JM & Fulling KH1 noted that USG was very effective in evaluation of PVWI particularly cystic on necrotic component.

BSI was diagnosed on CT, which could not be assessed by USG. This suggest better efficacy of VT over USG in diagnosing BSI being significant with P value < 0.05, BSI being peripheral on USG views, in lesion are often missed.

GMH with IVH was diagnosed with equal accuracy both on CT and VSG. This study by Khanna G, Kapoor RK, Misra PK, Sriastava KL, Pant MC, Srivastava PK2 says that in preterm babies abnormalities included GMH & IVH in same preperation of care.

USG detected more DCI as increased echogenicities with effaced sulci and fissures as suggested in a study by Epelman et al., 20103 who described imaging changes including echogenicities of the deep grey matter (basal ganglia and thalami), brainstem and the PVWI.

Table. 2

In term babies – DCI with effaced cortical sulci suggesting edema was the most common finding on UGS seen in more cases than CT, which showed MFH and DCI seen in almost equal proportion in terms. This is in agreement with account given by Volpes JJ4 that says CT scan is of is of particular value in identification of focal and multifocal Ischemic injuries.

DCI was better appreciated on USG than CT with a significant difference with Pvalue<0.05. This providing is in agreement with other studies carried out by Anand NK, Gupta NK, Lamba IM5.

Cortical and SCI was detected in CT more than USG. Parasagittal in farcts were noted on CT but missed in USG. A care of BSI was detected in CT missed in USG. These lesions being peripherally located are difficult in appreciate and are often missed on Sonography. This is in accordance to a study by J. Volpe.

CT detected IPH more than USG term infant with flaccidity showed ICH on both CT and USG, it showed IPH on CT but not on USG. Similarly cases

with hypotonia presented predominantly with upper limb weakness were shown to have parasagittal injury in CT which was missed on USG. Similarly finding was noted by Volpes JJ (Neurology of Newborn ed4, Philadelphia 2001, W.B. Saunders)6

Table 3.

CT & USG abnormalities were depicted in preterm and term babies, which showed better efficacy of USG over CT on preterm and CT shows better than USG in terms. This study matches with study by Zhonghua Yi et al.7

Table 4.

Imaging in follow up cases preterm and terms babies in preterm infant with recurrent seizures had cerebral palsy, but multicystic encephalopathy were presented with spastic diplegia. Imaging modalities showed ventricular dilatation, widening of CSF spaces and leukomalacia in both USG and CT again porencephalic cyst was seen in infant presenting with seizures and spastic diplegia. Similar findings were shown by de Vries et al. 19878, who described children with very extensive cystic leukomalacia invariably developed cerebral palsy mild to moderate types of ischaemic injury suggesting partial Hypoxia cases were commonly diagnosed by USG. Hence the classification of imaging findings into mild moderate and severe degree have been done on the basis of accounts given by Huang & Castillo in 2008 in Peadiatric neurology by Valpe9. So there is a strong co-relation of USG grading by P value <0.001 AK Anand et al, 1994 reported similar findings.

CONCLUSION

Transcranial USG is better tool for early diagnosis of HIE in the preterm infants in the first few days of life. After a few days both USG and CT scan fare equally for term babies CT fares better than USG at any stage. But in long term, CT fares marginally better than USG.

ABBREVIATIONS

IVH- intra ventricular haemorrhage

IPH- intraparenchymal haemorrhage

MFH- multifocal hypodensity

PVWI- periventricular white matter injury

SAH- subarachnoid haemorrhage

USG- Ultrasonography

CUS-Cranial ultrasonography

BSI-Brain stem injury

GMH-Germinal matrix haemorrhage

DCI-Diffuse cerebral injury

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Conflict of interest: No

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