



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## INTERNATIONAL SURVEY ON NEONATE HYGIENE AND SKIN CARE IN NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS (NICUS)

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Introduction: Neonatal cutaneous immaturity is inversely proportional to Gestational Age (GA). However, no guideline on neonate hygiene and skin care in NICUs are published.

Material and Methods: 86 NICUs levels 2 and 3 (40 in France, 30 in Italy, 8 in Mexico, 8 in Turkey) answered a questionnaire (82 questions in 5 categories).

Results: -Written protocols for hygiene exist in 45% of USINs (20/40 France, 14/30 Italy, 0/8 Mexico, 5/8 Turkey) and for skin care in 23% of centres (respectively 8/40, 7/30, 0/8, 5/8).

-Use of cleansing products varies with age (24% <28w, 43% 28-32w, 65% 33-36w, 64% full term). Non-sterile products delivered from hospital pharmacy are mostly used in France and Italy (>50% from 33w); highest frequency of antiseptics use is observed in Mexico and Turkey (37.5%). Caregivers are aware of their composition in 49% of USINs (0 to 83%) and of their pH in 45% (0 to 80%).

- Median delay between birth and first bath varies from 12 to 60 hours before 32 weeks GA, 6 to 48h at 33-36W and 1 to 24h for full term neonates. Median delay before cleansing the vernix is 1 to 45h before 32w, and 1 to 24h after. Large discrepancies are observed among centers in each country. Water used, and drying techniques are highly variable.

-70% of centers apply skin care products (50 to 87.5%). Eye, nasal and mouth care are homogeneous (predominantly saline solution) but at variable frequencies.

-Parents participate to hygiene acts (28 to 80% from very preterm to full-term), to skin care (26 to 79%) and to skin-to-skin (41 to 82%), these techniques being rarely used in Mexico (1/8 center).

Conclusion: This international survey revealed great discrepancies for cutaneous skin care between NICUs and between countries. Such results may help to build new and valid guidelines.

