Outcome Of Critical Chd: Comparison Between Prenatal And Post-Natal Diagnosis In 548 Neonates

Fratta F., Carrozza M., Pignatiello M., Grasso A., Paolillo C., Sorrentino R., Morelli C., Ricci C., Iacono C., Palladino M.T., Di Salvo G., Caianiello G., Russo M.G.
Pediatric Cardiology, Monaldi Hospital, 2nd University of Naples, Naples, ITALY

INTRODUCTION. Critical congenital heart diseases (CHD) account for 2 - 3 /1000 of birth malformations and about 50% of CHD. Data from literature report that prenatal diagnosis may improve outcome of neonates with transposition of great arteries (TGA) and left-heart side obstructions. Report the outcome of patients with critical CHD admitted in our Division (Pediatric Cardiology/Cardiosurgery) in eleven years of activity (Jan 2000-2011), comparing when they were diagnosed in utero and in post-natal life.

METHODS. We reviewed 548 neonates with CHD (TGA: 112/548, 20.4%, AoCo: 128/548, 23.3%, PAIVS 85/548, 15.5%, HLHS 54/548, 9.8%). Mean age at admission was 3.0±2.1 days (range 0-30 days): Among them, 240/548 (43.8 %) received prenatal diagnosis of critical CHD: 48.2% systemic ductal-dependent CHD, 44.8% pulmonary ductal-dependent CHD and 42.8% of transposition of great arteries.

RESULTS. As first treatment, 323/548 neonates (59.0%) were submitted to a percutaneous procedure, 225/548 neonates (41.0%) were submitted to cardiothoracic intervention. Overall mortality was: 100/548 (18.0%). If we exclude neonates with HLHS, this data drop to 12.5% (64/512). At a mean follow-up of 5.8 ± 1.4 y (range 0-11 y), we recorded a mean overall survival of 74.2%. We divided neonates which received prenatal diagnosis (G1) from those which didn't receive it (G2). G1 pts were admitted in 1st day of life (P=0.03, <0.05). We report a pre-surgical mortality of 2.0% in G1 and 9.0% in G2, P = 0.02 (<0.05). We report early survival of 90.0% in G1 and 80.0 % in G2, P 0.04 (< 0.05)

CONCLUSIONS. Prenatal diagnosis of critical CHD allows to plan the delivery, the 3rd level centre admission, early-starting PGE2 infusion, to prevent metabolic and respiratory acidosis, so improving clinical pre-surgical conditions. We report an overall survival of 75 % at 5 yrs (included complex CHD) of patient with critical CHD, if diagnosed and treated in a 3rd level pediatric cardiology and cardiosurgery centre. Early survival of neonates with prenatal diagnosis in our series is about 90%. In conclusions, prenatal diagnosis of critical CHD statistically improve the outcome of affected neonates.