formed a normal distribution curve, with the 97.5th centile falling at 16.8 mIU/L. Therefore, cord TSH exceeding 16.8 mIU/L formed the basis for screening cut-off TSH values at SGH since 2013.

Objectives The objective of our study was to determine the prevalence of CH amongst newborn infants born at SGH who had umbilical cord TSH levels in the borderline range 16.8 – 25.0 mIU/L.

Methods In this retrospective cohort study, livebirths from 1 January 2015 to 31 October 2020 who had borderline cord TSH levels of 16.8 – 25.0 mIU/L were included. Neonates with raised cord TSH ≥ 16.8 mIU/L had thyroid function repeated on day 6–8 and 2-weekly thereafter. Demographic and birth data were collected, including cord free thyroxine (fT4) and TSH levels, aetiology, age at initiation of treatment, initial dose and length of outpatient follow-up.

Results Our screening program based on cord TSH cut-off ≥ 16.8 mIU/L resulted in a positive screening rate of 3.63%. A total of 276 of 10,172 neonates (2.71%) born during the study period was found to have cord TSH levels in the range 16.8–25.0 mIU/L. The mean ($\pm$ S.D.) gestational age was 38.2 (± 1.9) weeks and mean ($\pm$ S.D.) birth weight was 3040 (± 486) grams. There were three cases of congenital hypothyroidism amongst 276 livebirths, giving a prevalence rate of 1 in 92. All 3 neonates were born at term with mean birth weight 3,287 grams at a mean gestational age 38 weeks. Of the 3, one was diagnosed postnatally with trisomy 21 complicated by patent ductus and ventricular septal defect, while another was born to a mother with Graves' disease. All had thyroid dysgenesis and were given daily L-thyroxine replacement.

Conclusions Our current newborn screening program for congenital hypothyroidism based on an umbilical cord TSH cut-off ≥ 16.8 mIU/L resulted in a positive screening rate of 3.63%. Amongst 276 neonates with TSH levels of 16.8 – 25.0 mIU/L, three term infants were diagnosed with congenital hypothyroidism, giving a prevalence rate of 1 in 92. These 3 cases of CH would have been missed if the screening cut-off level were increased to 25 mIU/L. A better screening TSH cut-off at the 97.5th centile of the distribution curve appeared to be 18 mIU/L instead of 16.8 mIU/L.

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CASE OF INFANT BOTULISM AND REVIEW OF THE USE OF HEPTAVALENT BOTULINUM ANTITOXIN FOR TREATMENT

Karen Donceras Nadua, Ann Chuan En Loh, Terrence Gerard Sundram Thomas, Matthias Maiwald, Xue Fen Valerie Seah, Natalie Woon Hui Tan. *Singapore*

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Background Infant botulism is a rare and potentially lethal condition resulting in symmetrical descending flaccid paralysis, caused by ingestion of *Clostridium botulinum* spores. Human Botulism Immune Globulin Intravenous (BIG-IV) is deemed safe and effective in reducing inpatient and intensive care unit (ICU) stay for infants with botulism. However, the high cost of BIG-IV and the time to procurement from the United States can be prohibitive. A possible alternative is the heptavalent botulinum antitoxin (HBAT), an equine-derived antitoxin licensed for use for treatment of non-infant botulism.

Objectives To present a case of infant botulism and review the use and safety of heptavalent botulinum antitoxin as treatment for infant botulism.

Methods Case report and review of literature.

Results A three-month-old female infant weighing 5.3 kg presented to our hospital with two days of reduced feeding, poor suck and lethargy. She subsequently developed acute flaccid paralysis with bulbar involvement. History revealed ingestion of 1 milliliter of raw honey about 3 weeks prior to symptom onset. She was transferred to the ICU for non-invasive respiratory support on and also required nasogastric tube feeding. Her stool botulism neurotoxin gene PCR was positive for type A and B genes. A nerve conduction study demonstrated a pre-synaptic neuromuscular junction defect consistent with the diagnosis of infant botulism.

A collaborative decision between parents and clinicians was made for HBAT over BIG-IV due to lower cost and availability in Singapore. On day 6 of admission, she was given HBAT (10% of vial, 1.6 mL once) using a slow incremental infusion rate, with close monitoring of vital signs and with diphenhydramine as premedication. She did not experience any adverse effects. Her condition improved and she was eventually discharged after 18 days of hospitalization.

Only few studies describe the use of HBAT in infant botulism and the experience in children is limited, especially in infants. This adds to the limited data available for the use of HBAT in infants, and suggests that HBAT may be safe and effective for use in infant botulism.

Conclusions Infant botulism is a rare condition that requires prompt diagnosis and treatment. In a setting where the BIG-IV is not accessible in a timely manner due to high cost or logistics, HBAT can be considered as a safe and effective alternative for the management of infant botulism.

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LOPINAVIR/RITONAVIR TREATMENT IN PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH COVID-19

Po Ki Ho, JSC Wong, Kk To, P Ip, Ys Yau, Yw Kwan. *Hong Kong*

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Background Protease inhibitor lopinavir/ritonavir has been used alone or in combination with other therapeutics as treatment of COVID-19. Data on paediatric population are scarce.

Objectives To assess efficacy and safety of lopinavir/ritonavir for treating paediatric patients with COVID-19.

Methods From March to August 2020, patients aged 18 years or below with confirmed COVID-19 diagnosed by positive SARS-CoV-2 reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in their respiratory specimens in Department of Paediatrics, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital, Hong Kong, were included. Patients were treated with lopinavir/ritonavir at decision of primary physician for 14 days or shorter when patient was fit for discharge or PCR in nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) turned negative. NPS viral load, which was determined by RT-qPCR targeting the RdRp-Hel gene, was obtained at different study time points. Clinical features including demographics, duration of symptom and hospitalization, time to negative PCR in NPS, need of oxygen therapy or intensive care were retrieved from medical records.

Results 80 patients admitted from March 2020 to August 2020 for COVID-19 were recruited. 27(33.8%) received