# TOCOLYTIC AND NEUROPROTECTION IN PRETERM LABOR

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Preterm birth (PTB) is any delivery, regardless of birth weight, that occurs before 37 completed weeks from the first day of the last menstrual period. Preterm delivery is the leading cause of the perinatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. Almost 13 million babies every year worldwide are born preterm. An estimated 28 % of the 4 million annual neonatal deaths worldwide are directly attributable to preterm birth. Over a million babies every year die of prematurity. So, every minute 2 babies die of preterm birth. Accounts for 75% of perinatal mortality and make up more than 50% of long-term morbidity associated with poor perinatal outcomes. Over 85 % occur in Asia and Africa. The highest rates in Africa and North America (11,9% and 10.6%).

	iomplikasi Bayl Pre		
Permasalahan jangka	pendek dan jangka panjang pada bayi pr	ematur dengan VLBW	
Organ / sistem yang terganggu	Permasalahan jangka pendek	Permasalahanjangka panjang	
Paru	Sindrom gagal napas, kebococan adara, dispiasia bronkopulmonari, hendinapas	Displasia bronkopulmonar , asma, penyakit paru reaktif	
Gastronstestinal / nutrisi	Hiperbiliribunemia, intoleransi makanan, enterokolitis nekrotikans, gagal tumbuh	Failure to thrive short-bowel Syndrome, kolestasis	
Imunologi	Hospital acquired infection, defisiensi imun, infebs. perinatal	Respiratory syncytial virus infection Bronkrolidis	
Sistem carat pasat	Percarahan intraventrikel, persentricular white- matter injury, hidrosefalus	Cerebral palsy, hidrosefalus, atrofi serebral, keterlambatan perkembangan yaraf, gangguan pendengaras	
Wata	Retracipati prematuritas	Kebutana refinal detachment, mopra, strabismus	
Kardiovaskular	Hipotensi, PDA, hipertensi pulmonal	Hipertensi pulmanai, hipertensi pada usia dewasa	
Ginjal	Ketidakseimbangan carran dan elektrolit, gangguan keseimbangan asam basa	Hipertens: pada es a dewasa	
Hematologi	Anemia latrogenik , kebastulian unfuk ti as'usi anemia pada premataritas		
Endokrin	Hipoglikemia, rendannya hormon tiroksin (transieni, defisiensi kortisol	Gangguan regulasi glukosa , peningkatan resistensi insulin	

The incidence of disability and neurodevelopmental problems among survivals remains high and problematic. Major disabilities (moderate-severe mental retardation, sensorineural hearing loss/blindness cerebral palsy, and epilepsy) present in up to 25% of VLBW.

Neurodevelopmental dysfunctions (learning disabilities, low average IQ scores, ADHD, neuropsychological deficits, visual motor integration, temperament difficulties, language delays,

emotional problems and regulatory disorders) present in 50-70% of VLBW. Those deficits can be seen in premature infant with IVH/PVL or without any ultrasound abnormality.

Cost of Preterm Birth; Medical care services: 16.9 billion (\$ 33,200 per preterm infant) - 2/3 total cost. Maternal delivery cost: 1.9 billion (\$ 3,800 per preterm infant). Special education services: 1.1 billion (\$ 2,200 per preterm infant). Lost household and labor market productivity: 5.7 billion (\$11,200 per preterm infant). The annual cost of PTB in US exceeds \$ 5 billion and the rate of PTB has increased in recent years. Treatment should be initiated only once the diagnosis is made The diagnosis of spontaneous preterm labor (PTL) and accurate prediction of PTB is notoriously difficult. PTL is a clinical diagnosis. Regular contractions with cervical effacement or dilatation are required for diagnosing established labor. The clinical diagnosis of PTL; Contractions that are painful, palpable, last longer than 30 seconds and occur at least 4 times per 20 minutes .Evidence of a change in the position, consistency, lenght and/or dilatation of the cervix. Contractions occur at a frequency of 4 times per 20 minutes or 8 per 60 minutes Accompanied by one of the following: PROM, Cervical dilatation > 2 cm, Effacement > 50%, Change in cervical dilatation or effacement detected by serial examinations. The clinical diagnosis of PTL; Contractions ≥ 6 /hour. Cervical dilatation ≥ 3 /cm and or effacement ≥ 80%. Vaginal bleeding. Documented change in the cervical exam . Standard techniques of clinical diagnosis may not accurately detect PTL, either missing the diagnosis or prompting unnecessary hospitalization and treatment. Patients may not perceive contractions and that contractions are at times difficult to differentiate from benign Braxton-Hicks contractions of normal pregnancy. Digital assessment of the cervix lacks reproducibility when the dilatation is < 3 cm or effacement is < 80%. Clinical evaluation alone can easly suggest prematurity when it is absent and miss it when it is presen.

Clinical and Biochemical Markers: A number of studies have attemped to identify clinical and biochemical markers. Source of biologic fluid: Serum or plasma. Amniotic fluid, Urine, Vagina and cervical secretions, Saliva, Periodontal fluid.

Ability of Clinica	Markers to	Predict	Preterm	Labor*
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Marker	Test	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	PPV (%)	NPV (%)
Risk scoring systems	Risk factors	88 to 92	23 to 30	94 to 98	41 to 76
Assessment of cervical length	Manual examination ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **	8 to 64	68 to 96	7 to 32	89 to 94
	Ultrasound examination 11.12	76 to 100	55 to 59	55-75	93 to 100
Monitoring of uterine activity	Patient-perceived <sup>2</sup>	NS	NS	NS	NS
	Tocodynamometry 18 18 11	18 to 58	45 to 94	7 to 20	82 to 94
Vaginal bleeding	Pelvic examination 22	8 to 36	89 to 95	21 to 82	82 to 97

Table II Markers of intrauterine infection in pregnant women in labor

Infection site	Marker		
Amniotic fluid	Bacteria		
	Low glucose level		
	High white blood cell count		
	High G-CSF		
	High IL-1 level		
	High IL-6 level		
Cervix or vagina	Bacterial vaginosis		
	High G-CSF		
	High tumor necrosis factor- level		
	High IL-1 level		
	High IL-6 level		
	High IL-8 level		
	High fetal fibronectin level		
Serum	High G-CSF		
	High IL-6 level		
	High tumor necrosis factor-a level		
	High C-reactive protein level		

Cervical Length (TVU CL); Examination of the cervix with ultrasound is superior to vaginal examination. The shorter the cervix, the higher the risk for PTB and vice versa. Ultrasound assessment of the cervix in normal pregnancy shows that cervical effacement starts around 32 weeks. In pregnancies affected by PTL the process may begin between 16 and 24 weeks. Effacement begins at the internal os and can be visualized as cervical shortening and funneling, a process that occurs before dilatation of the external os. Lesser cervical length means greater risk.

Likelihood of PTB is inversely proportional to cervical length measured at 18-28 weeks. A length of  $\leq$  2.5 cm is the treshold for abnormal condition.

Fetal Fibronectin (FFN), An extracellular glycoprotein described as the glue that attaches the fetal membrane to the underlying uterine decidua. Is normally absent in cervicovaginal secretions between weeks 22 and 37 of pregnancy. Its presence ( $\geq 50 \text{ ng/mL}$ ) between 22 to 24 weeks is a predictor of spontaneous PTB. Its absence makes PTB unlikely. Diagnosis Diagnosis (Modern); Persistent uterine contractions( $\geq 6 \text{ /hour}$ ) and TVU CL  $\leq 20 \text{ mm}$  or TVU CL 20-30 mm and FFN (+).

Efforts to prevent PTB can be disappointing. Obstetrics care must focus on strategies to improve the outcome of preterm infants. 30% spontaneously resolves, < 10% give birth within 7 days, 50% hospitalized women give birth at term.

Preventive programs or interventions goals: (1) Decrease of uterine contractions to delay preterm delivery, (2) Optimize the fetus for life extra-uterine. (3) Transfer the mother to a tertiary referral hospital where a neonatal intensive care unit is available. Primary effort, before or

during pregnancy to prevent & reduce risk. Secondary effort, eliminating or reducing risk in women with known risk factors. Tertiary effort, initiated after the process parturition begun with a goal preventing delivery or improving out comes for preterm infants. Maternal risk factors for preterm

birth

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Covariate	Contract	Odds ratio estimate	Lower 95% confidence limit for adds ratio	Upper 95% contidence limit for odds ratio	p Value
Age cal	2 Agr 35 to 1 Agr 35	1234	0.699	217	0.4585
BM	2. BMI > 25 vs. 1. BMI < 25	1.662	1.033	2.678	0.0365
Employment	Physical work vs. 2.     Intellectual work	190	1.100	3.207	0.0089
Duteto nelito	1. Yes vs. 2. No.	12%	0.942	5.5 <b>W</b>	0.0675
Chronic antennal hypertension	Liferry 2 No	2621	0.746	9.206	0.1327
Ailthu	L Yeava 2 No	1,555	0.357	6.530	0.5489
Erdscreplegkaldiæases	1. Yes vs. 2. No	1420	0.594	3.3%	0.4307
Congeniul aquied idence endomations	1. Yes vs. 2. No	260	0.502	11.78	0.1967
Province abortist	L Yes vs. Z No	1.954	1.162	3,285	0.0115
Previous PTBs	1. Years 2. No	3.412	1342	8.575	0.0099
Previous resulted and the second seco	L Yes vs. 2 No	2904	1.066	7.910	0.0371
Previous pregnancies « I year before current delivery	1. Yes vs. 2. No	0.919	0.398	2.134	0.8440
W	1. Yes vs. 2. No	2.065	0.253	18.223	0.4906
Cigarette smoking	1. Yes vs. 2. No	1340	0.702	2.557	0.1748
Americalesis villa entesis	1. Yes vs. 2. No	1.006	0.540	1.875	0.9845

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### Tocolytic; Single or Multiple?

Corticosteroid: Single - Multiple .Tocolytics: Acute and Maintenance, First Choice and Second Choice. Tocolytics; Abolish contractions temporarily, Doesn't remove underlying stimulus, Delay delivery by hours to days. Indication; Women with preterm labor at a gestational age at which a delay in delivery will provide benefit to the newborn. Because tocolytic therapy generally is effective for up to 48 hours, only women with fetuses that would benefit from a 48-hour delay in delivery should receive tocolytic treatment.

Treatment goals; delay delivery by at least 48 hours so that corticosteroids given to the mother can achieve their maximum fetal/neonatal effect. (Predelivery administration of betamethasone reduces the risk of neonatal death, RDS, IVH, and NEC in premature neonates). Provide time for safe transport\_of the mother, if indicated, to a facility that has an appropriate level of neonatal care. Prolong pregnancy when there are underlying, self-limited conditions that can cause labor, such as pyelonephritis or abdominal surgery (appendectomy).

Gestational age limits; Lower limit, tocolytics are generally not indicated prior to neonatal viability since these drugs do not delay delivery for more than a few days. Except to inhibit contractions after a self-limited event that has been associated with preterm labor, such as Acute Pyelonephritis or appendicitis with appendectomy. Upper limit, Thirty-four weeks of gestation. Contraindications; Women with preterm contractions without cervical change, Cervival dilation > 3 cm, The maternal/fetal risks of prolonging pregnancy or the risks associated with these drugs are greater than the risks associated with preterm birth. Established contraindications to labor inhibition include: Intrauterine fetal demise, Lethal fetal anomaly, Nonreassuring fetal status, Severe preeclampsia or eclampsia, Maternal hemorrhage with hemodynamic instability, Intraamniotic infection, Maternal contraindications to the tocolytic drug.

The selection of an appropriate labor-inhibiting agent should be based upon efficacy and safety. The drug should be safe for the mother, fetus, and neonate. If the first tocolytic does not successfully inhibit contractions, discontinue it and begin therapy with a second agent. Concurrent use of more than one tocolytic agent should be undertaken with caution because of the increased risk of side effects. There are no data on the role of repeated courses of tocolytics for treatment of recurrent preterm labor. In patients receiving antenatal corticosteroids, discontinue tocolytics 48 hours after administration of the first corticosteroid dose.

Options; Cyclooxygenase inhibitors and calcium channel blockers had the highest probability of delaying delivery and improving neonatal and maternal outcomes. For women 24 to 32 weeks of gestation who are candidates for tocolysis, use indomethacin as first-line therapy for labor inhibition. For women 32 to 34 weeks of gestation, use nifedipine for initial treatment of preterm labor, due to adverse fetal effects of indomethacin use at this gestational age.

Indomethacin Side Effect; Maternal: Nausea, gastritis, and emesis (4%), Platelet dysfunction may occur. Alterations in maternal cardiovascular physiology are minimal (eg, myocardial infarction, stroke). Fetal: Constriction of the ductus arteriosus, Oligohydramnios.

Ca channel Blocker; Meta-analysis of 13 randomized trials (1000 patients) specifically comparing nifedipine versus beta-adrenergic receptor agonists: Nifedipine had fewer deliveries within 7 days (RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.70-0.97; 37 versus 45 percent) and before 34 weeks of gestation (RR 0.77, 95% CI 0.66-0.91; 48 versus 62 percent), but there was no significant difference in delivery within 48 hours of treatment (RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.68-1.05; 21 versus 24 percent) Nifedipine was also associated Significant reductions in RDS, NEC, IVH, neonatal jaundice, admission to the neonatal intensive care unit, and Had a better side effect profile.

Dose; Initial loading dose of 20 mg orally, followed by 20 mg orally in 90 minutes. If contractions persist, 20 mg can be given orally every 3 to 8 hours for up to 72 hours, with a maximum dose of 180 mg/day. ACOG suggests a 30 mg loading dose and then 10 to 20 mg every four to six hours. Maintenance: There are several theoretical rationales for considering maintenance tocolysis after successful arrest of the initial episode of PTL: 1. the underlying

stimulus for labor may persist and cause a recurrence. 2. the myometrium, having experienced a recent episode of PTL, may be in a chemical state of preparedness and thus have a low threshold for recurrence Maintenance tocolytic therapy is ineffective: If a second episode of acute preterm labor occurs, the indications for retreatment are the same as for a primary episode.

Beta-agonists; A Cochrane review, which included 11 randomized trials comparing oral beta-mimetics with alternative therapies or placebo for maintenance therapy after threatened PTL, concluded there was no significant benefit to oral beta-mimetic therapy. Outcomes evaluated included rate of NICU admission, preterm birth, perinatal mortality, and perinatal morbidity. FDA concluded that the risk of serious adverse events from prolonged terbutaline therapy of preterm labor (beyond 48 to 72 hours) outweighs any potential benefit. The safety of this therapy was unclear. Risks; An FDA-conducted search of its Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) identified reports of 16 maternal deaths associated with terbutaline between 1976 and 2009. Between 1998 and July 2009, 12 cases of serious maternal cardiovascular.

MgSO4; A more recent report evaluating 19 RCT reveals that MgSO4 fails to reduce delivery rate within 48 hours.

Recpmmendations; 1. Administrate tocolytics to selected women with preterm labor. 2. The goal of treatment is to delay delivery so that glucocorticoids can be administered and achieve their maximal effect; allow safe transport of the mother, or to prolong pregnancy when there are underlying, self-limited causes of labor. 3. Treatment can be discontinued after these goals have been achieved. 4. The selection of an agent should be based upon efficacy and safety. 5. If the first tocolytic agent chosen does not successfully inhibit preterm labor, discontinuing it and begin therapy with a second agent. 6. Avoid routinely administering multiple tocolytics in patients who fail therapy with a single agent. 7. Not using maintenance tocolysis.

#### Fetal Neuroprotection.

Preterm birth and low birth weight are important public health problems, have a higher risk of a developing neurological problems such as cerebral palsy (CP) and impairment of cognitive function. The risks increases, with decreasing GA at birth. Preterm infants born with PE had a lower incidence of adverse CNS outcomes than without PE. The use of MgSO4 for PE may underlie the potential association between administration of MgSO4 and CP. MgSO4 given before anticipated early preterm birth reduces the risk of CP in surviving infants. The exact mechanism is still unknown, Two theories that describe how magnesium may inhibit neuronal damage: Hypoxic-ischaemic damage and Inflamatory damage.

Hypoxic-ischaemic damage: CP is though to be a result of periventricular white matter damage that predominates, <32 weeks gestation. Hypoxic-ischaemic damage is a result of low oxygen and glucose supply; leads to excessive glutamate release, Glutamate stimulates the N-

methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA); MgSO4 is an NMDA receptor antagonist and have proven to be strong neuroprotectants in various animal models.

Inflamatory damage; There is a strong correlation between spontaneous preterm birth and intrauterine inflamation. Fetal brains subjected to inflamation that were treated with MgSO4 did not display neuronal injury associated with fewer dendritic processes. MgSO4 therapy given to women at risk of preterm birth substantially reduced the risk of CP in their infants (RR 0.68, 95% CI 0.54-0.87).

Indication; Imminent preterm birth ( from viability to  $\leq 31 + 6$  weeks) is: Active labour with ≥ 4 cm of cervical dilatation +/- PPROM , Planned preterm birth for fetal or maternal indications, Singleton and multiple pregnancies, Nulliparous and parous, Anticipated vaginal or Caesarean delivery, Any reason for anticipated preterm birth. Exclusion criteria; MgSO4 already administered for preeclampsia- eclampsia, < 12 hours since discontinuation of previous MgSO4 infusion, MgSO4 contraindicated. Dosage; Loading dose 6 g IV over 20-30 minutes. A maintenance infusion of 2 g / hr for 12 hours or until delivery, whichever comes first.

# Woman ≤ 31+6 weeks gestation AND imminent preterm birth

- Active labour with ≥ 4 cm cervical dilation with either failure or contraindication to tocolysis
- ≥ 4 cm dilation with documented progressive change in cervical
- · PPROM with active labour
- · Planned delivery for fetal or maternal indications



- Administer MgSO: loading dose. 4g IV over 30 minutes
- Follow with MgSO4 maintenance infusion of 1g/hour IV until birth or a maximum of 24 hours of therapy
- Administer corticosteroids for fetal lung maturation (if not already given)
- Monitor maternal vital signs as per existing MgSO<sub>4</sub> protocols Provide continuous fetal heart
- surveillance

Woman currently not eligible for MgSO<sub>4</sub> for neuroprotection

# CLINICAL TIPS

- MgSO<sub>4</sub> may be administered before tocolytic drugs have been cleared from the maternal circulation. If nifedipine has been used for tocolysis or hypertension, there is NO contraindication to the use of MgSO<sub>1</sub> for fetal neuroprotection.
- Delivery should NOT be delayed in order to administer antenatal MgSO<sub>4</sub> for fetal neuroprotection if there are maternal and/or fetal indications for urgent delivery
- Monitoring of serum Mg levels is NOT required.