Antenatal Corticosteroids study (ANCS)

Background/Rationale

The scientific basis for a WHO recommendation on use antenatal corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm birth was based on trials conducted in high-income countries. A recent NIH-supported Antenatal Corticosteroid Trial in resource-limited settings showed that this intervention may be ineffective or even harmful in resource-limited settings. This trial is required to address this controversy.

Study Questions & Design

To determine whether antenatal corticosteroids are safe and efficacious for women and newborns in resource-limited settings, when given to women with a live fetus/es at risk of imminent preterm birth from 26+0 to 33+6 weeks gestation in facilities for the prevention of neonatal mortality. A multi-country, multi-centre, two-arm, parallel, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial (6000 pregnant women).

Programmatic Implications

This study will settle the controversy around use of antenatal corticosteroids in low-resource settings, which was raised by publication of a recent NIH supported effectiveness study in similar settings that reported an overall increase in neonatal mortality.

Locations & Collaborators

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Collaborators</th>
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| Bangladesh | Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Professor Abdullah H. Baqui)  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka (Dr Saleha Begum Chowdhury Professor Mohammod Shahidullah) |
| India | University Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Karnataka (Professor Shivaprasad Goudar)  
KLE University Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (Professor Sangappa M Dhaded) |
| Kenya | Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi (Dr John Kinuthia)  
School of Medicine, University of Nairobi (Professor Zahida Qureshi, Professor Frederick Were) |
| Nigeria | College of Medicine, University of Ibadan (Dr Adejumoke Idowu Ayede, Dr Bukola Fawole)  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Professor Ebinoluwa A. Adejuyigbe, Professor Oluwafemi Kutii) |
| Pakistan | Aga Khan University, Karachi, (Dr Shabina Ariff) |

Data Collection

2017 – 2020

Funders

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