ProPrem Study

Investigating the effects of probiotics on late onset sepsis in very preterm infants

Late onset sepsis (>48 hours after birth) is a frequent (23% of infants <1500g) complication of prematurity with increased mortality (18%) and morbidity in survivors. Premature infants have poorly developed intestinal immune defences. Shortly after birth the intestine becomes rapidly colonised with, often pathogenic, microbes. Supplementation with live non-pathogenic bacteria (probiotics) that normalise the microenvironment might confer health benefits for these infants by reducing sepsis and its complications**.**

Aim:

To determine the effects of probiotic organisms, ingested daily by very low birth weight premature infants (<1500g and <32 weeks) from shortly after birth, on the incidence of proven late onset sepsis (> 48 hours) before term or discharge home, which ever occurs sooner.

What does the study involve?

This is a multi-centre prospective, randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled trial organised out of Melbourne. We are investigating the treatment of VLBW infants with a probiotic combination Bifidobacterium infantis, Streptococcus thermophilus, Bifidobacterium lactis (ABC Dophilus Probiotic Powder for Infants - Solgar US). Randomisation is stratified by centre across Australia.

Infants recieve the probiotic or placebo from the start of milk feeds until discharged home or term corrected age, whichever comes first. Infants will be followed up until 12 months corrected age for neonatal mortality and morbidity, allergic outcomes and developmental screening.

Contacts

For more information contact:
Dr Javeed Travadi or Dr Ian Wright Ph: 49214362
or Ros Black (Nurse coordinator) Ph: 49855536