Evaluating a Practice Initiative: Prolacta as a nutritional supplement for preterm, low-birth weight infants.

**Abstract Information**

**Presentation Preference:** SNRS  Student Poster Presentation

**Abstract Categories:**
- Interest Group: Parent-Child
- Thematic Areas: Perinatal/Neonatal/Infancy

**Introduction:**

**Aim:** To determine if using Prolacta (Prolact H2MFTM) combined with breast milk decreases the incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) in extremely preterm infants of a large neonatal intensive care unit. Research question: This study involves the collection of data to determine the incidence of NEC, morbidity and mortality related to the time period surrounding this practice initiative. **Significance:** Necrotizing enterocolitis is a devastating complication most commonly seen in extreme prematurity, characterized by inflammation of the intestinal wall presenting as sepsis. The incidence of NEC in this observed population is 11.9%, well above the national average of 6.9%.

**Method(s):** A pre-post study design is being used with one year baseline and one year post-intervention data collection. During the intervention period, all babies delivered at 26 weeks gestation or less and weighing less than 750 grams at birth are eligible for this practice initiative. Parental consent is obtained for the use of donor breast milk. Demographic and clinical information will be collected for the babies in the pre-intervention group and on each baby receiving Prolacta. Babies receiving Prolacta will receive only breast milk and Prolacta until full feedings are attained (150mls/kg). Endpoints measured will be incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis, late-onset sepsis, patient days, overall cost of stay and related death.

**Results:** Preliminary results will be presented from data collected in October, November and December of 2008 and a comparable baseline period.

**Discussion:** Discussion and conclusions will be based on findings. Specifically, what is the incidence of NEC and other pre-established endpoints of these infants compared to the pre-intervention group? Are the findings statistically or clinically significant? If the preliminary findings hold true over the entire data collection period, should the use of Prolacta in this patient population be considered a best practice and therefore be consistently implemented in the future? Research completed: No.

**Research Completed:** Yes

**Financial Disclosure:** Have a financial arrangement or affiliation with commercial companies whose products may be mentioned in this material? No