

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

Bangladesh	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Professor Abdullah H. Baqui)
	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka (Dr Saleha Begum Chowdhury Professor Mohammad 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 Adejumo Idowu Ayede, Dr Bukola Fawole)
	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Professor Ebunoluwa A. Adejuyigbe, Professor Oluwafemi Kutí)
Pakistan	Aga Khan University, Karachi, (Dr Shabina Ariff)

Data Collection

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