

Use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Neonates

Abstract

Neonatal hypoglycemia remains one of the most common controversial topics in the field of neonatology. Use of Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) in the adult population is well established. In this review, we present the recent updates about the use of CGM devices in both preterm and term neonates.

Keywords

Hypoglycemia, CGM, Neonates, Glucose.

Abbreviations

CGM: Continuous Glucose Monitoring.

BG: Blood Glucose

MARD: mean absolute relative difference

IVH: Intraventricular Hemorrhage

Use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Neonates

Glucose monitoring is an essential part of the management of glucose-related diseases such as diabetes and neonatal hypoglycemia. Throughout the time (*figure 1*), there has accelerated technological advancement of CGM devices and techniques, to provide more accurate, quality of life supportive management for lifelong disease, to help guide the clinicians as well patients in the management of the related disorders [1]. Continuous glucose monitoring CGM device can be used to follow glucose levels twentyfour hours [2]. The sensor measures interstitial glucose level. These devices typically consist of three parts: A temporary needle sensor measures the interstitial glucose levels connected to a transmitter by the different interface based on the manufacture, and a receiver that record the data received by the sensor [3]. The use of CGM devices has the advantages of having real-time data about the body reaction to insulin, food, and other factors [4]. Also, it allows the chance to monitor blood glucose (BG) levels during less convenient times for patients (Overnight, prolonged exercise, fasting, and others) [5,6]. Advancement in technology and research continue to improve the accuracy, feasibility, and availability of these devices for diabetic patients [7-9]. The accuracy of CGM is being measured by the mean absolute relative difference (MARD), which is the mean of the absolute differences between CGM and simultaneous reference values as a percentage of the reference value. Errors of $\leq 13\%$ are generally considered acceptable [10].

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Review Article

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Although the rule of CGM is well established in the care process for diabetes mellitus, its' rule in neonatal glucose monitoring is less clear. Driven by the high incidence of neonatal hypoglycemia and the associated adverse neuro-developmental outcomes associated with it [11-13], multiple recent studies have looked into the use of CGM in newborns and preterm neonates. The challenge with the use of CGM devices in neonates arises from the relatively small size, limited subcutaneous fat, and the unclear understanding of the normal glucose hemostasis in neonates. Beardsall et al. [14] showed in their cohort of very low birth weight infants that the use of CGM devices in very low birth weight infants was safe and practical with very good correlation with the routine blood glucose measurements. This finding was later confirmed in more recent studies for the same populations [15-17]. More recent technological advances in CGM unlinked sensors targeting preterm population resulted in more convenient nursing care and was associated with less procedural pain when compared to the regular blood glucose measurements methods [18,19]. Use of CGM was also studied in infants at risk for hypoglycemia; Harris, Deborah L, et al. [20] followed 102 infants ≥ 32 weeks glucose levels with CGM devices, in the meantime in those infants, intermittent blood glucose measurement using glucose oxidase test was performed. They found that the CGM use resulted in significantly more episodes of hypoglycemia about 81% that were not detected by regular BG measurements. Another small sample study looked at the feasibility of using CGM in term and near-term infants born to mother with diabetes [21]. The authors concluded that the use of CGM is beneficial early after birth in this subset of infants.

Use of CGM to Predict Short and Long-term Neuro-developmental Outcomes

As the operational threshold and the BG levels that require interventions or result in adverse neurodevelopmental outcome-remains one of the most controversial questions in the field of

the neonatology. Attempts have been made to use CGM data to compare longterm outcomes, McKinlay et al. [22] in large sample study evaluated the neurological outcomes at two years of age between the infant with low BG < 47 mg/dl who received treatment and those who had similar levels detected by the CGM, but didn't receive treatment. No difference was found between the two groups regarding neurosensory impairment and processing difficulties. The authors concluded with the assist of the masked data obtained by the CGM that low BG levels <47 were not associated with adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes. Another small sample study to evaluate the short-term adverse outcomes suggested that the use of CGM can help detect IVH, as suggested by the glucose variability captured early by the use of CGM devices [23]

Conclusion

CGM sensor use in term and preterm neonates is practical, safe and feasible. It does provide the advantages of real-time data, as well as decrease the babies discomfort by decreasing the frequency of blood sampling. Data without intervention obtained by CGM didn't show significant adverse outcomes as a result of neonatal hypoglycemia. Future research is needed to evaluate long term outcomes based on the interventions made according to the data obtained by CGM before adopting this new technology.

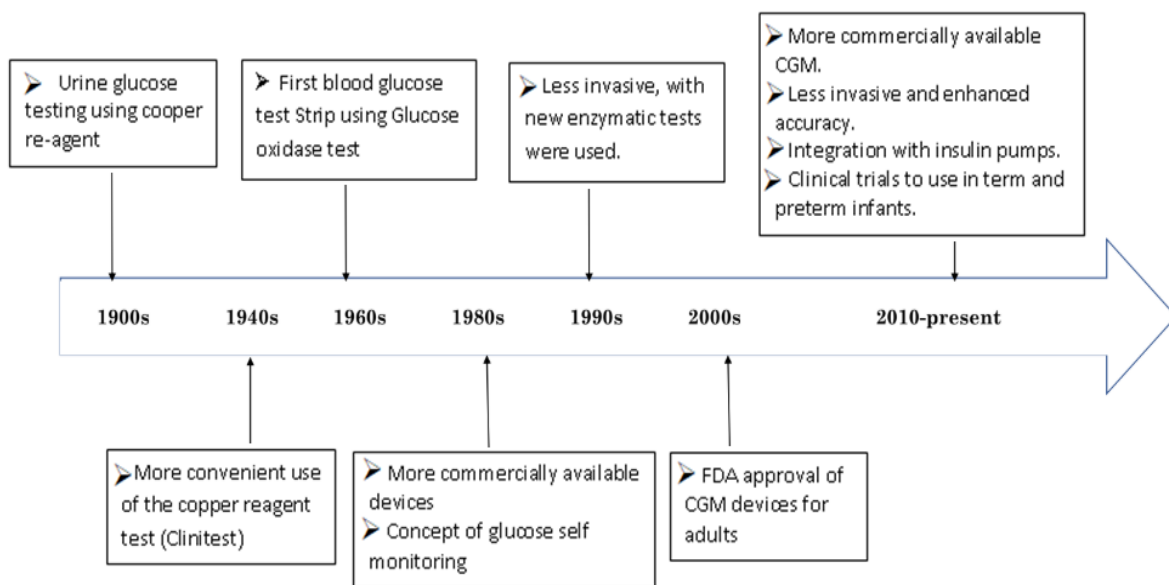


Figure 1: Timeline of glucose monitoring, FDA: Food and Drug Administration, CGM: Continuous Glucose Monitoring.

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