



TITLE: Necrotizing enterocolitis in a full-term newborn from a mother with HIV, attended in a neonatal intensive care unit, from a third level hospital in the department of Tolima, Colombia

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ABSTRACT

This case study is of great importance as it is the index case of an outbreak that occurred in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), where five cases of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) were identified, with a fatal outcome in 40% of them. The clinical evolution of this disease is described in a term newborn, born as the 8th pregnancy of a 36-year-old mother with a history of HIV and refusal to take antiretroviral treatment due to side effects such as rash, headache, and itching. The mother only attended 2 prenatal check-ups during the entire pregnancy. Finally, the obstetric event was attended via cesarean section due to the mother's infectious disease and the breech presentation of the baby.

The newborn had low birth weight and a high risk of vertical HIV infection. The symptoms of NEC developed on the eighth day after starting enteral feeding with a special formula for premature babies.

NEC is a hospital-acquired disease with high mortality rates in those who suffer from it,

mainly affecting premature or critically ill newborns. It is characterized by necrosis of the intestinal mucosa with varying degrees of involvement. The treatment includes nasogastric aspiration, administration of intravenous fluids, total parenteral nutrition, antibiotic therapy ideally guided by culture, and occasionally, surgery.

BIOGRAPHY

Martha Letty Arias is a nurse and epidemiologist who has been coordinating the program for infections associated with healthcare in the Tolima department of Colombia for some years. She works as a university professor and actively researches relevant public health issues in her territory.

José David Gómez is a medical doctor and epidemiologist who is passionate about scientific research, with a particular interest in infectious diseases of public health interest. He currently works at the departmental health secretariat of Tolima.

Iván Alejandro Villalobos is a pediatrician and university professor. He has extensive research experience in his area of expertise and currently works at one of the most important hospitals in Latin America, where he educates new generations of doctors in Colombia.



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