

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Survival of Infants with Spina Bifida and Encephalocele: A Population Study, 1979-1994. *L-Y. Wong and L. Paulozzi (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30341)

To investigate the survival of infants with spina bifida or encephalocele and its associated prognostic factors, we used a cohort of 305 liveborn infants who were born from 1979 through 1994 and for whom the diagnosis of either spina bifida or encephalocele was ascertained by the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program (MACDP). We identified deaths among infants with these defects for the study period 1979 through 1996 from two sources: The National Death Index and MACDP records. Survival rates were calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method. Potential prognostic factors were examined by log-rank test. We assessed the independent effect of potential risk factors using the Cox proportional-hazards model. Overall, 78.4% of children with spina bifida and 68.6% of children with encephalocele survived during the study period. Of the 235 infants born with spina bifida, 87.2% survived the first year of life. Survival to age 1 for the 1979-1983, 1984-1988, and 1989-1994 birth cohorts was 82.7%, 88.5% and 91% respectively. In adjusted analysis, factors associated with an increased mortality were low birth weight.....