Congenital Hypothyroidism: Recent Indian data

Sir,

We read with great interest the review article by Agarwal *et al*. on congenital hypothyroidism (CH).[1] The author mentions that the prevalence of CH in India is 1 in 2640 based on the study was done by Desai *et al*. in 1998.[2] For the benefit of the readers we would like to add that significant information regarding the prevalence of CH has been accumulated in the last few years from our country and many of them point towards higher incidence of CH in India. The probable reasons for this increased prevalence could be due, as discussed

in the article, to improved testing strategies, increasing numbers of preterm births[1] or the actual incidence of a condition that was not studied in a large scale in the second most populous country in the world. The other studies from India quote a prevalence of 1 in 1985 from Hyderabad[3] and 2.1 in 1000 from Kochi.[4] Both these studies were hospital-based with relatively small sample sizes. In another study recently from UP, the prevalence of CH was reported to be approximately 1:1221.[5] The first multi-centric study screening above 1 lakhs neonates born throughout India was launched by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) National Task Force Team on New Born Screening (NBS) at AIIMS New Delhi (2007–2012) and the preliminary results reveal a much higher incidence of CH all over India at 1 in 1172, particularly in south Indian population (1 in 727). Results have been released by ICMR team on March 15, 2013 presided by Tamil Nadu Government Deputy Dierector of Medical Education.[6] In another review by Sundararaman the result of the pilot study of the above project was quoted to be 1.6 in 1000.[7] The detailed report of the above mentioned ICMR study is likely to be published in the near future. As members of the Chennai centre of the ICMR study on NBS in India, we thought it would be appropriate and useful to share and highlight the initial published findings with our journal readers.

Sudha Rathna Prabhu, Shriraam Mahadevan, Sujatha Jagadeesh, Seshadri Suresh

Department of Genetics, Mediscans and Fetal Care and Research Foundation, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author: Dr. Shriraam Mahadevan, 197, Dr. Natesan Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: mshriraam@gmail.com

References

1. Agrawal P, Philip R, Saran S, Gutch M, Razi MS, Agroiya P *et al*. Congenital hypothyroidism. Indian J Endocrinol Metab 2015;19:221-7.
2. Desai MP, Colaco MP, Ajgaonkar AR, Mahadik CV, Vas FE, Rege C, *et al*. Neonatal screening for congenital hypothyroidism in a developing country: Problems and strategies. Indian J Pediatr 1987;54:571-81.
3. Rama Devi AR, Naushad SM. Newborn screening in India. Indian J Pediatr 2004;71:157-60.
4. Sanghvi U, Diwakar KK. Universal newborn screening for congenital hypothyroidism. Indian Pediatr 2008;45:331-2.
5. Gopalakrishnan V, Joshi K, Phadke S, Dabadghao P, Agarwal M, Das V, *et al*. Newborn screening for congenital hypothyroidism, galactosemia and biotinidase deficiency in Uttar Pradesh, India. Indian Pediatr 2014;51:701-5.
6. ICMR Releases Results of Study on Congenital Hypothyroidism; March 15, 2013. Chennaionline News. Mht. Available from: http://www.news.chennaionline.com/chennai/ICMR-releasesresults-of-study-on-Congenital-Hypothyroidism/58cca920-765d-492b-8fd3-9b34a8ac2351.col. [Last accessed on 2015 Feb 05].
7. Sundararaman PG. Neonatal thyroid dysfunctions lessons from Indian exprerience. Thyroid Res Pract 2013;10:S1.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.ijem.in
	DOI: 10.4103/2230-8210.152800