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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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## Higher C-peptide levels and glucose requirements may identify neonates with transient hyperinsulinism hypoglycemia who will benefit from diazoxide treatment

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# Higher C- peptide levels and glucose requirements may identify neonates with transient hyperinsulinism hypoglycemia who will benefit from diazoxide treatment

## • *Objetivo:*

- *Caracterizar los factores que pueden servir como herramientas clínicas para identificar a los recién nacidos con HH neonatal transitoria que pueden beneficiarse del tratamiento con diazóxide*

## • *Método:*

- *Estudio retrospectivo, con información recabada de la dicha de los pacientes*
- *Enero 2015- Abril 2018, en el Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center*
- *Criterios de inclusión: hipoglicemia (< 50 mg/dl) + insulina elevada y/o evidencia de su elevación (ej: CG > 8, test de glucagon +).*
- *Criterios de exclusión: pacientes con mutaciones genéticas en genes implicados en la secreción de insulina o síndromes con HH*

**Table 1** Characteristics of diazoxide-treated and non-treated neonates

Characteristics	24%		P value
	Treated (n = 34)	Non-treated (n = 107)	
Male, n (%)	25 (73.5)	68 (63.6)	0.28
Prematurity (< 37 weeks)	21 (61%)	66 (61%)	0.99
Gestational age, weeks	36.0 ± 3	36.1 ± 2	0.82
Birth weight, g	2152 ± 696	2182 ± 703	0.83
Birth weight, SDS	- 1.07 ± 0.96	- 0.98 ± 1.13	0.69
Maternal factors			
Maternal age, years	34.0 ± 5.4	34.5 ± 5.8	0.61
Pregnancies, n	2.1 ± 1.7	2.3 ± 1.5	0.50
Deliveries, n	1.4 ± 0.8	1.8 ± 1.1	0.53
GDM only, n (%)	4 (11.8%)	16 (15.0%)	0.96
HTN only, n (%)	4 (11.8%)	13 (12.1%)	
GDM + HTN, n (%)	2 (5.9%)	5 (4.7%)	
Postnatal factors			
Max. glucose infusion rate, mg/kg/min	<u>16.6 ± 3.4</u>	10.4 ± 4.0	<u>&lt; 0.001*</u>
Duration of IV fluids, days	15.9 ± 19.3	7.8 ± 6.5	0.02*
Hospitalization, days	32.8 ± 22.7	20.4 ± 13.4	0.01*
Duration of carbohydrate supplementation, days	38.9 ± 40.4	17.8 ± 21.4	0.004*
Glucose levels, mg/dl	37.9 ± 6.1	39.0 ± 6.7	0.39
Insulin levels, µU/ml	3.5 ± 2.9	2.2 ± 3.8	0.07
C-peptide levels, ng/ml	1.4 ± 0.9 (n = 28)	0.8 ± 0.5 (n = 79)	<u>&lt;0.001*</u>

Data are presented as mean ± standard deviation unless indicated otherwise

GDM, gestational diabetes mellitus; HTN, hypertension; Max., maximum; IV, intravenous

\* Statistically significant

Diazoxide:  
Edad inicio: 14,7 ± 8 d  
Suspenden: 49,2 ± 40,2 d  
D max: 7,1 ± 2,3 mg/Kg/d

**Table 2** Stepwise logistic regression analyses for the decision to treat with diazoxide

	OR	95% CI	P value
Max. GIR (mg/kg/min)	1.56	1.30–1.88	< 0.001
C-peptide (ng/ml)	3.57	1.30–12.1	0.005

Area under the curve 0.93

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; GIR, glucose infusion rate

*Los niveles máximos de CG y péptido C fueron los predictores significativos de HH prolongada.*

*En base a esos hallazgos sugieren que los puntos de corte deberían ser:*

*14 mg/kg/min para la CG máxima  
0.9 ng/ml para el péptido C*

*Lo que resulta en:*

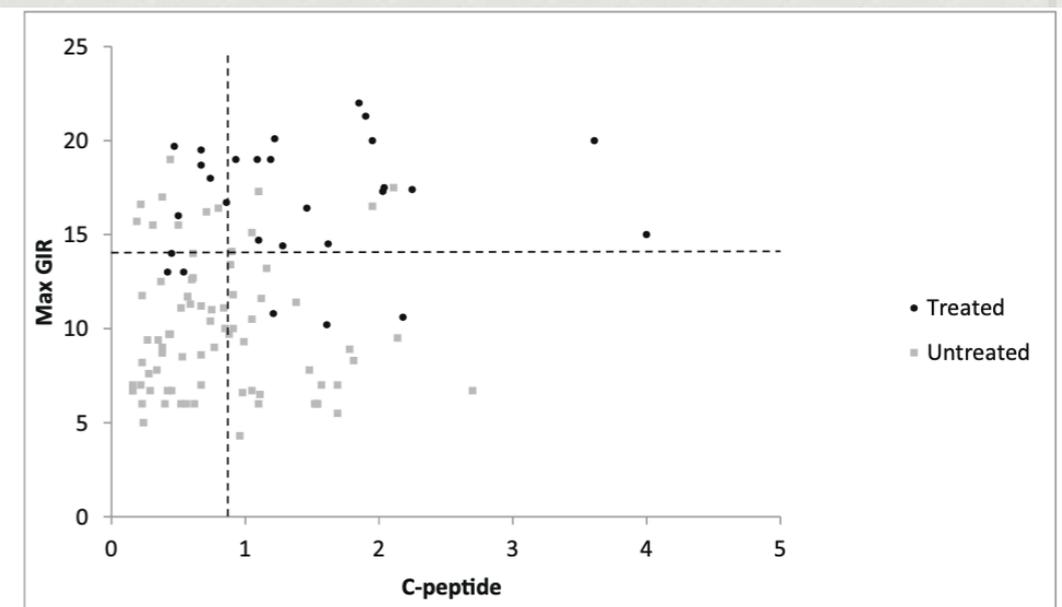
*Sensibilidad del 82%*

*Especificidad del 82%*

*Valor productivo positivo del 62%*

*Valor predictivo negativo del 93%*

**Fig. 1** A scattergram demonstrating the distribution of the treated (circles,  $n = 28$ ) and untreated (squares,  $n = 79$ ) groups according to C-peptide (X axis) and Max. GIR (Y axis). The dashed lines represent the proposed cutoff points to identify neonates with HH who may benefit from diazoxide treatment.



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### ✿ *Conclusiones:*

- ✿ *Los niveles más altos de péptido C y la CG más altos pueden servir como herramientas clínicas para identificar a los recién nacidos con HH transitoria que pueden beneficiarse del tratamiento con diazóxido.*
- ✿ *El inicio temprano del tratamiento puede reducir la duración de los líquidos intravenosos y la duración de la hospitalización, lo que resulta en una reducción del riesgo de infecciones y el costo de la hospitalización.*
- ✿ *Además, nuestros hallazgos pueden sugerir que la incidencia de HH neonatal prolongada es mayor que las cifras actualmente aceptadas.*



# Ethical issues about the paradigm shift in the treatment of children with trisomy 18

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## Abstract

Until recently, trisomy 18 was considered a disease incompatible with life, with a high percentage of electively terminated pregnancies. The usual behavior was denial of treatment. But some medical interventions have changed the survival of children. A search for articles published in the PubMed database on the latest medical decisions in newborns with trisomy 18 was done. Two main subjects were examined: (1) the chances of survival and (2) the perception of quality of life. Trisomy 18 is no longer considered a disease incompatible with life, and the discussion has shifted towards the type of treatment that is appropriate to initiate at birth. There are two medical attitudes towards these children: either palliative care or life-prolonging interventions. With medical intervention, the survival is as high as 23% at 5 years of age. Regarding the quality of life, all decision-makers emphasize the possibility of taking the child home. The physicians' perception is more pessimistic than that of the parents. Only a few children benefit from medical interventions.

*Conclusion:* There is a rethinking of treatment behavior in children with trisomy 18. The possible quality of life achieved should be further investigated. It seems inappropriate to simply dismiss medical interventions.

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## What is Known

- *Until recently, trisomy 18 was considered a disease incompatible with life. The most common behavior was abortion and denial of treatment.*

## What is New

- *It is no longer considered a lethal disease. The type of medical intervention that is appropriate to perform is now being discussed. Selected children benefit from an interventionist approach.*
-

*Algunos niños sobreviven más tiempo y con una mejor calidad de vida.*

*No hay experiencia clínica suficiente para determinar la mejor opción a seguir.*

*El objetivo de los enfoques intervencionistas siempre debe centrarse en la posible mejora de la calidad de vida. Para esto, es necesario evaluar cada caso particular, sin basar un enfoque o intervención particular exclusivamente en el diagnóstico de la trisomía 18 y, de manera concomitante, los pacientes deben ser seleccionados para quienes el beneficio de la intervención haya sido comprobado.*

*De esta manera, es más fácil garantizar que se realicen intervenciones efectivas y evitar intervenciones terapéuticas sin sentido.*

**Table 1** Survival range of newborns with trisomy 18 according to different medical

	With palliative approach <sup>a</sup> (%)	With an interventionist approach <sup>b</sup> (%)
First month	33–37.2 [1, 15]	83 [5]
1 year	3–13.4 [1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 17, 33]	20–84 [5, 6, 8, 9, 18, 33]
5 years	12.3 [15]	23 [18]

<sup>a</sup> Palliative approach includes only palliative medical treatment (without palliative surgery)

<sup>b</sup> Interventionist approach: includes all active treatments

✿ *Conclusiones:*

- ✿ *En la medicina perinatal, se ha replanteado las opciones de tratamiento en niños con trisomía 18.*
- ✿ *La evaluación continua de las nuevas estrategias de tratamiento es importante para determinar la adecuación ética de los diferentes enfoques médicos para la afección.*
- ✿ *Entre otros puntos clave, es importante evaluar sistemáticamente la posible calidad de vida lograda.*
- ✿ *No parece apropiado negar simplemente un enfoque intervencionista basado únicamente en un diagnóstico de trisomía 18.*