TITLE: Skin-to-Skin Care for Premature and Critically Ill Infants: Guidelines

DATE: 01 February 2016

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding skin-to-skin care for neonatal patients in the neonatal intensive care unit?

KEY FINDINGS

One systematic review was identified regarding skin-to-skin care for neonatal patients in the neonatal intensive care unit.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2011 and January 21, 2016. Internet links are provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.
### Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Population</strong></th>
<th>Premature and critically ill infants in the NICU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intervention</strong></td>
<td>Skin-to-skin care; Kangaroo care; Kangaroo mother care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparator</strong></td>
<td>Isolette care; Standard holding</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>Guidelines and recommendations for safe handling and appropriate initiation of skin-to-skin care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study Designs</strong></td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, evidence-based guidelines</td>
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</table>

NICU = neonatal intensive care unit.

### RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

One systematic review was identified regarding skin-to-skin care for neonatal patients in the neonatal intensive care unit. No relevant health technology assessments or evidence-based guidelines were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

### OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One systematic review \(^1\) examined the use of kangaroo mother care versus traditional neonatal care for low birthweight infants. The authors found that kangaroo care was associated with a reduction in the risk of infant mortality, infection or sepsis, hypothermia, and length of hospital stay.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Qualitative Studies


Clinical Practice Guidelines and Position Statements – Methodology Not Specified


Review Articles


Additional References
