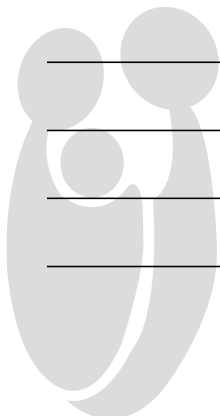


WHY FOLLOW-UP? METHODOLOGY AND GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING FOLLOW-UP OF PREMATURE INFANTS.



Dr. Saroj Saigal

Neonatal intensive care has resulted in a remarkable improvement in survival without a corresponding decrease in morbidity. Follow-up of high-risk infants should be considered an integral component to provide reassurance to families, identify infants who require intervention, and provide a mechanism for quality control. In addition, it is important to evaluate the clinical outcomes as well as cost-effectiveness of newer interventions in clinical trials. However, methodological problems and high attrition rates preclude interpretation of the findings. In the presentation today, the conceptual framework, design, organization, measurement tools and minimum age for reliable assessment will be discussed in the context of the theme of the symposium, evaluation of infants receiving Kangaroo care.



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Dr. Saroj Saigal obtained her medical degree and pediatric training in India. She did her neonatal fellowship at the Universities of Edinburgh, McGill, and McMaster, and joined the pediatric faculty at McMaster University, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, as a neonatologist and Director of the Neonatal Follow-up Program for high-risk infants in 1973. Dr. Saigal has been Professor of Pediatrics since 1984, and is currently Professor Emerita at McMaster and continues to run the follow-up clinic as well as her ongoing research.

Dr. Saigal and her colleagues have followed one of the few population-based cohorts of extremely low birthweight infants longitudinally from infancy to adulthood, and she has published extensively on the same. She is currently a co-PI of a further follow-up study on the mental health of the same cohort, now in their 30s, through a new Canadian-Finnish Consortium funded by CIHR (2010-2014). In addition, Dr. Saigal has been involved as a collaborator in several perinatal clinical trials.

Dr Saigal has held many leadership positions in the Canadian Pediatric Society and is the recipient of many awards: from 2000-2005, she was awarded the Senior Scientist Career Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; she received the Canadian Pediatric Society's prestigious Distinguished Neonatologist Award, the Society's highest award for neonatology. In 2009, Dr. Saigal was the recipient of the Landmark Award from the Section of Perinatal Pediatrics of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and in 2011, she received the Douglas K. Richardson Award from the American Society for Pediatric Research for her lifetime achievement as a clinical investigator who has made substantive contributions to Perinatal and Pediatric Healthcare Research.

Dr. Saigal is internationally recognized for her studies which focus on the quality of life and consequences of having been born extremely premature.

