Respiratory blood

Many research papers are now advocating "delayed clamping" of the cord, against the teaching of recent textbooks, and as if immediate clamping of the cord were the longstanding tradition [1-11]. Studies going back over 130 years provide evidence for the importance of postnatal placental circulation, and should be cited in ongoing research on neonatal status. The current academic standard requiring “randomized controlled trials” is hindering progress at the present time, and amounts to experimentation with human infants. Evidence from research with monkeys 50 years ago needs to be recovered from the dustbin of history and re-examined.

Awareness needs to be increased of how the lungs become functional at birth – that placental blood is respiratory blood, and must be transferred to the lungs before breathing can begin. No lapse in oxygen delivery is acceptable. Oxygen is the most urgent ongoing need of all species dependent upon aerobic metabolism. The current protocol to clamp off blood flow from the placenta to the lungs is a medical error of major proportions.

How many women, who entrust safe delivery of their infant into this world to obstetricians, have any knowledge of how soon the umbilical cord will be clamped? Perhaps some information is obtained if they have opted for umbilical cord blood banking [12-17]. How safe is this, and how many women have been fully informed of how the procedure might disrupt an otherwise normal birth?

In several research studies, infants who exhibited "respiratory depression" (or low Apgar scores) at birth later developed autism [19-28]. Difficulty learning to speak can be understood in terms of ischemic impairment of brainstem nuclei in the auditory pathway – the result of “respiratory depression” and low Apgar scores. The evidence has too long been ignored that auditory nuclei like the inferior colliculi are damaged by oxygen insufficiency at birth.

Ignoring (even avoiding) the problem of birth injury is hindering progress toward preventing the catastrophic life-long tragedy of cerebral palsy, autism, and other developmental disorders. Perhaps if long-term care insurance were required of every citizen from birth, actuarial scientists would make it a priority to find out the causes of disability due to brain damage, and perhaps more quickly than government-funded peer-reviewed researchers seem able to do.

References
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