Effectiveness of Intrapartum Antibiotic Prophylaxis for Prevention of Early-Onset Group B Streptococcal Disease

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1. The authors describe this study as a secondary analysis of the Birthnet cohort. Review the term “secondary analysis.” Are there any special considerations for a secondary analysis that do not apply to the primary analysis?

2. The authors state they used propensity score matching on covariates to evaluate the effectiveness of regimens against the disease endpoint.
   a. What is propensity score matching? Why and when would you use this?
   b. What are covariates? How did they identify the covariates to match? Would you have used the same covariates? How would changing the covariates affect the outcome?
   c. Review what the authors mean by effectiveness. How do you determine if something is effective?

3. What are your policies for Group B streptococcal (GBS) prophylaxis?

4. Reviewing your patient population, how often do patients not receive the 4-hour-long treatment?

5. This study was performed on data collected in 2003 and 2004. Are there any practice changes at your hospital in the ensuing years that might alter the interpretation of this data?

6. This secondary analysis did not require institutional review board (IRB) approval. When does a secondary analysis require IRB approval? Review the criteria for IRB approval and exemption.

7. The authors suggest in their discussion a more aggressive management of the infants exposed to clindamycin or to short (less than 4 hours) durations of intrapartum prophylaxis. Discuss the aggressive management that might be appropriate for these infants.

8. Is this the best study design to answer the question the authors are interested in? If you were to try to answer their question, how would you design the study? What would you do differently and why?

9. About 15% of the sample received clindamycin. Is this similar to the use of clindamycin for GBS prophylaxis in your hospital? Will the findings of this study change your use of clindamycin?

10. Will the findings from this analysis change your practice? How?