

**PREDICTIVE POWER OF CRIB-II AND SNEPPE-II IN  
MORTALITY RISK OF EARLY PRETERM NEONATE  
AND/OR LOW BIRTH WEIGHT**

**BY**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

NICU – Neonatal Intensive Care unit

CRIB - Clinical Risk Index of Babies

CRIB II - Clinical Risk Index of Babies II

SNAP - Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology

SNAP II - Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology II

SNAPPE - Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology with Perinatal Extension

SNAPPE II - Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology with Perinatal Extension II

ABG – Arterial Blood Gas

MBP – Mean Blood Pressure

GA – Gestational Age

BW – Birth Weight

ELBW – Extreme Low Birth Weight

VLBW – Very Low Birth Weight

LBW – Low Birth Weight

POG – Period of Gestation

PIH – Pregnancy Induced Hypertension

UO – Urine Output

BP – Blood Pressure

NBS – New Ballard Score

## **ABSTRACT**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Recently, there have been a significant increase in preterm and LBW neonates brought to Neonatal intensive care units. These neonates need specific attention and need to be thoroughly evaluated because they were born with high clinical risks. Therefore, it is crucial to classify the newborns according to gestational age and birth weight as soon as they are admitted, plan clinical interventions, anticipate outcomes, schedule follow-up visits accordingly, and determine the amount of clinical care that will eventually be required. Significant, diligent initiatives have been taken in recent years to lower neonatal mortality. The mortality of neonates has been evaluated using a variety of grading methods.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To evaluate the CRIB-II and SNAPPE II questionnaires' capacity to detect neonatal mortality in early preterm and/or low birth weight neonates admitted to the NICU.

**TYPE OF STUDY:** Prospective Observational Study

**STUDY PERIOD:** Period of 18 months, from Jan 2021 to June 2022.

## **STUDY POPULATION:**

All neonates admitted to LEVEL III-A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), BLDE (Deemed to be University, Shri B. M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA who meet the inclusion criteria.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

Neonates fulfilling the inclusion criteria were enrolled in the study. Neonatal data in preference to CRIB II and SNAPPE II were documented. Parameters are birth weight, gestational age, gender, temperature, APGAR @ 1 minute and 5 minutes, need for resuscitation at birth, if any, blood pressure (MAP), seizures, and urine output. Neonatal outcome at the time of discharge was assessed.

## **RESULTS:**

A total of 324 neonates in the study group, 283 survived, and 33 not survived, with a mean gestational age of 32 weeks and a birth weight of 1760 grams. Baseline maternal and neonatal characteristics were not significant. SNAPPE II had better mortality predictive in neonates with 78% sensitivity and 82% specificity in neonates born before 34 weeks with a statistically significant p-value (<0.05). CRIB II score had good mortality predictive ability for neonates less than 32 weeks only with a sensitivity of 64% and specificity of 74%. Individually birth weight and gestational weeks were not good predictors of neonatal mortality.

**CONCLUSION:**

SNAPPE II score is an appropriate means for predicting the outcome of mortality in very low birthweight and in neonates 28-32 weeks . In preterm newborns, SNAP PE II score is a more accurate predictor of neonatal mortality than CRIB II score. CRIB II and SNAPPE II both are better predictors of mortality outcome in comparison to birth weight and gestational age independently.

**KEYWORDS:** SNAPPE II, CRIB II, Neonates, Mortality Predictor, Preterm, LBW

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## INTRODUCTION

The transition from intrauterine to extrauterine life exposes the neonates to risk before ,during or after birth. As the neonates are sensitive and fragile their mortality rates are high. Neonatal mortality constitutes two-thirds of all fatalities in the initial 12 months of life.

Preterm newborns are more exposed to a variety of complications related to the function and maturity of all other organs as their intrauterine life is shorter than the physiological limit.

Preterm births are expected to afflict 15 million babies worldwide, primarily in low- and middle-income nations (LMIC). It directly affects the survival rate, i.e one million neonatal deaths annually are contributed by preterm neonates to childhood morbidity, which is significant both in terms of perinatal, neonatal mortality and under-five mortality risk.

Preterm birth is neonates born before 37 POG. Preterm is the most common cause of adverse neonatal outcomes in terms of survival and quality of life<sup>1</sup>. It is the top cause of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity globally<sup>2</sup> Birth weight and gestational age are essential variables determining the success rate of newborns admitted to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). But these two are not the only factors determining the outcome. The likelihood of survival also depends on physiological characteristics and other perinatal circumstances, particularly those that are connected to the severity of their disorders.<sup>3</sup> In order to evaluate the severity of an illness and to forecast a neonate's mortality, morbidity, and prognosis in a NICU, scoring systems are necessary.

Neonates are at risk of death during this period due to the structural and functional immaturity of organs. Therefore, utmost care must be exercised for these neonates due to their fragile nature and sensitivity, as all cells are premature, sensitive, and delicate, requiring special care. Equipment's that can detect seriously ill neonate in the initial hour of life after birth aid in assessing the effectiveness of a healthcare professional and a healthcare facility. NICU performance reviews and assessments can be effectively measured by these tools. <sup>4</sup>

There have been numerous distinct illness severity scores developed, such as those from Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the Clinical Risk Index for Babies (CRIB and CRI+B-II), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, NICHD 2008, Vermont Oxford Network-Risk Adjustment, Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology (SNAP and SNAP-II), Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology with Perinatal Extension (SNAPPE and SNAPPE-II).<sup>5</sup>

SNAPPE II has been used widely in USA and Canada, the CRIB II is used in the UK and other European regions.<sup>6</sup> There are limited studies from developing countries like India evaluating the predictive role of these scores in those settings.<sup>7-10</sup> Additionally, very few studies have compared the CRIB II score and SNAPPE-II score in very low birth weight (VLBW) neonates.<sup>6</sup>

In light of this context, the current study aims to determine the predictive power of the Clinical Risk Index for Babies II (CRIB-II) and Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology with Perinatal Extension II (SNAPPE-II) risk assessment questionnaires for neonates admitted to NICUs with low birth weight or gestational age.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- I. To determine the predictive power of the CRIB-II questionnaires in terms of risk of death among neonates with gestational age less than 34 weeks and very low birth weight admitted to the NICUs.
- II. To determine the predictive power of the SNAPPE-II questionnaires in terms of risk of death among neonates with gestational age less than 34 weeks and very low birth weight admitted to the NICUs.
- III. To assess the validity of the CRIB-II and SNAPPE-II questionnaires in low-birth-weight neonates admitted to NICU.

# REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Discussed under these headings

- Epidemiology of preterm and low birth weights
  - Burden estimate
  - Risks, susceptibility
  - Mortality risks
- Scoring systems
- Studies conducted in the past
- Application of predictive scores
- Performance of illness severity scores:
- Critical review of Scoring systems

## **Preterm Birth and LBW :**

Preterm birth and LBW pose major challenges in the care of neonates.<sup>11</sup> LBW neonates and preterm neonates terms are used interchangeably constantly but they are not same. WHO, defines prematurity as neonatal birth before 37 weeks of gestation. Preterm is further categorized into extreme preterm, early preterm (28-32 weeks) and moderate to late preterm (32-37 weeks)<sup>12</sup>.LBW babies are babies weighing less than 2500g at birth, and it is further divided into very LBW and severely LBW categories.<sup>11</sup> Multiple pregnancies, undernutrition, genetics, infections, underlying comorbidities (like diabetes), persistent maternal stress, and poor socioeconomic circumstances, and the mother's lifestyle (e.g., smoking) are risk factors for preterm and LBW<sup>13</sup>.

## **Burden Estimate:**

Preterm birth, is one sole factor that has the greatest impact on neonatal outcomes that affect quality of life and survival.<sup>1</sup> Globally, preterm births are leading cause of perinatal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.<sup>2</sup> The WHO estimates that in 2014–2015, more than 10% of neonates (or about 15 million neonates annually) born were preterm, and 15%–20% of infants were born with low birth weight. Low- and middle-income nations report the highest rates of neonatal death and illness, with Africa and Asia bearing the biggest share of this health burden of society.<sup>14</sup>

In 1971, around one million deaths of children under five were reported in India, which accounted for 20% of the global total.<sup>15</sup> Preterm delivery was listed as the reported cause of 0.57 million (or 27.7%) of these neonate fatalities. This scenario is concerning because 23.4% of premature babies worldwide occur in India.<sup>14</sup> A major estimate of LBW infants is that, in the



years 2013–2014, out of almost 19 million newborns, 68.7% were weighed at birth, and of those, approximately 2.43 million births i.e 18.6% were LBW.<sup>16</sup> The proportion of live birth born as Very LBW has increased from 1.17% to 1.45%, as per a study data in US<sup>17</sup>. Data from India also shows an incidence of very LBW as 1.4% to 2.08% of full live births<sup>18,19</sup>. Despite critical care approach in the management of these neonates, their death rate is high, and constitutes to about 30% of early neonatal deaths.

### **Susceptibility and risks:**

Compared to term neonates and neonates with normal BW, preterm and LBW neonates have a higher risk of infections and death rate. Perinatal infection, prolongation in perinatal hospitalisation, hospital side effects of life-saving interventions, circulating maternal antibodies at low level, and developing preterm immune system constitute the main risk factors. Particularly, it is recognised that as GA and BW decrease, the immune system's immaturity increases. Neonates primarily rely on their physical barrier as their initial line of defence, followed by their innate immune response mainly more than their adaptive immunological response. Both immune defence systems are still maturing when a neonate is born.<sup>20</sup> This developing immune system is immature in preterm neonates and those born with LBW due to several deficiencies. Survival and various morbidities of VLBW rely on a variety of perinatal variables and their clinical circumstances in addition to birth weight and gestational age. Assessment of sickness severity at admission makes it easier to identify neonates in the NICU who have a higher risk of mortality and morbidity at an early stage. This can help in improved care of neonates and better counselling of parents.

Neonates primarily depend on physical barrier as their initial line of defence, followed by their innate primary immune response rather than adaptive immunological response. Both

defence mechanisms are immature at birth<sup>20</sup>. This immune system immaturity exaggerated in neonates born preterm and LBW, due to several deficiencies. Physical barriers against pathogens include lining of mucous membranes in respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts, keratinized skin and chemical barriers contain a variety of enzymes and other substances that directly prevent microbes from attaching to bodily surfaces or that have an antibacterial effect on their own.<sup>21</sup> Preterm and LBW newborns have a less formed barrier than full-term infants, which makes them more prone to ruptures and makes them more susceptible to infections. Additionally, the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts' mucosal barriers have less flora that produces antimicrobial peptides, which makes it easier for microorganisms to access and increases the risk of infection. Multiple mechanisms initiate the innate immune response when pathogens go pass the initial barrier of protection. Due to the availability of fewer neutrophils than term and normal birthweight, this innate immune response is only partially present in preterm and LBW neonates. In addition to performing phagocytosis, neutrophils also produce oxygen radicals that aid in the intracellular death of infections. Similar to preterm and LBW newborns, there is a lower pool of monocytes available to them.<sup>22</sup>

The activation of adaptive immune systems B-cells and T-cells, is controlled by monocytes, which are also able to present antigens, secrete cytokines or chemokines, and phagocytose. Due these , preterm and LBW infants are more likely to acquire infection early . Preterm birth is directly caused by intrauterine inflammation, which can result in rapid immune activation, cytokine production, the development of immune resistance, and impaired immune function in preterm and LBW babies.<sup>22-24</sup> Additionally, medical procedures performed during birth may have an impact on immunological function. For instance, maternal corticosteroid treatment to avoid neonatal respiratory illness is linked to decreased lymphocyte proliferation, decreased cytokine production, and greater infection rate. Peptides, which are soluble proteins, and immunoglobulins (Ig) encourage phagocytosis and have antimicrobial effects.

Since the fetus cannot produce many soluble proteins, maternal antibodies are mostly used to promote adaptive immunity. Around 17 weeks into pregnancy, the fetus begins to receive maternal IgG antibodies, and by 32 weeks cord blood IgG levels are comparable to maternal titers and can be up to two times higher at term birth. Because of this, the circulating maternal IgG levels in preterm newborns are low in relation to gestational age at birth. Due to this, infants are more likely to catch diseases, including ones that can be avoided with immunizations.<sup>25</sup>

### **Mortality risk assessment:**

Studies on mortality risk assessments using characteristics that could affect death rates have been conducted in many nations and neonatology units. Birthweight and gestational age were the only two reliable univariate predictors of neonatal death for a very long period. However, the correlation between these parameters and mortality prediction was not very precise.<sup>26</sup> Later, more comprehensive scoring systems that aggregate physiological markers that reflect the neonate's first clinical state have been created for determining the risk of mortality. Scores are usually simple when they based on physiological changes , have fewer factors, and applied quickly; others are more extensive, consider more variables, and take longer to calculate.<sup>5</sup> CRIB, CRIB II ,SNAP, SNAPPE, SNAPII , and SNAPPE- II are the scoring indexes that have received the most attention and are used on neonates more frequently.<sup>27-31</sup> Scoring systems are developed in NICU to assess the severity o and predict the mortality, morbidity , and prognosis of the neonates.

## **Gestational age assessment of the neonates**

### **Ballard Score for assessment of clinical assessment of neonates:**

Establishing the number of weeks of pregnancy is necessary for determining gestational age. Typically, a full-term pregnancy lasts 40 weeks. Assessment of foetal maturation is frequently the only accurate indicator of GA in these neonates because preterm neonates are commonly born to women with irregular menstruation histories or who did not get proper care prior to delivery.

With a simple and quick evaluation, a maturational assessment of neonates has been developed that is precise and applies to all neonates, including those who are born sick. Based on previous studies made by several authors on anatomical and neurological characteristics of neonates<sup>40</sup> permutation and combination of different characteristics of neonates, a criteria was made up ruling out all possible difficulties encountered during the development of score. The 10 physical criteria outlined by Farr et al.<sup>41</sup> and Dubowitz et al.<sup>42</sup> were eventually integrated into six observations using a method that was developed. In addition to resting posture, angles of flexion, resistance to extension, and passive recoil, Amiel-neurologic Tison's criteria were most helpful when applied to passive as opposed to active muscle tone. Thus, six neurologic criteria and six physical criteria made up the simplified score as the end result. (Figure 1)

**Neuromuscular Maturity**

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Posture						
Square Window (wrist)	90°	60°	45°	30°	0°	
Arm Recoil	180°		100°-180°	90°-100°	<90°	
Popliteal Angle	180°	160°	130°	110°	90°	<90°
Scarf Sign						
Heel to Ear						

**Physical Maturity**

	gelatinous red, transparent	smooth pink, visible veins	superficial peeling, &/or rash few veins	cracking pale area rare veins	parchment deep cracking no vessels	leathery cracked wrinkled
Skin						
Lanugo	none	abundant	thinning	bald areas	mostly bald	
Plantar Creases	no crease	faint red marks	anterior transverse crease only	creases ant. 2/3	creases cover entire sole	
Breast	barely percept.	flat areola no bud	stippled areola 1-2mm bud	raised areola 3-4mm bud	full areola 5-10mm bud	
Ear	pinna flat, stays folded	sl. curved pinna; soft & slow recoil	well-curved pinna; soft but ready recoil	formed & firm & instant recoil	thick cartilage ear stiff	
Genitals ♂	scrotum empty no rugae		testes descending, few rugae	testes down good rugae	testes pendulous deep rugae	
Genitals ♀	prominent clitoris & labia minora		majora & minora equally prominent	majora large minora small	clitoris & minora completely covered	

**MATURITY RATING**

Score	Wks.
5	26
10	28
15	30
20	32
25	34
30	36
35	38
40	40
45	42
50	44

FIG 1: Ballard Scoring

The clinical maturity test that is described examines both physical and neurologic development equally, incorporates the components that have been found to be most helpful, and is unaffected by the existence or absence of disease. Physical changes are less noticeable during these first several weeks, but neurologic modifications between 26 and 34 weeks are prominent. Extensor tone is replaced by flexor tone, which progresses in a caudo-cephalad direction, as

part of the neurologic modifications. Additionally, the examination can evaluate functional or physiological maturity in addition to physical maturation according to the inclusion criteria. The examination can be completed in less time as the new score comprises fewer items, and is applicable to all neonates, even those in intensive care. This test is most accurate during 30 and 42 hours after birth, most likely because of its simplicity as neonates requires time to settle and adapt to life outside the womb after the delivery. (Figure 2). This imply that, once stabilised, the neonate matures more quickly outside of the uterus than inside of it.

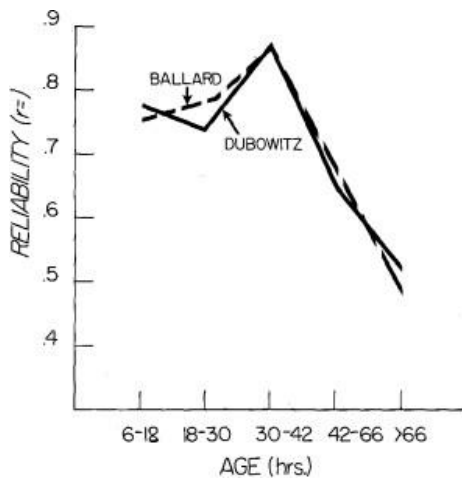


Fig 2: Reliability of both scores related to neonatal age at examination time. Both scores are most accurate at 30 to 42 hours of life

## **NEW BALLARD SCORE; including extreme preterm neonates as per**

### **Ballard et al :**

The New Ballard Maturation Score was enhanced to encompass extremely preterm neonates and to increase accuracy. According to Ballard et al. <sup>43</sup>, age of gestation is the best predictor of survival and provides a precise method for assessing age of gestation in neonates with VLBW. In order to check the new tool, assess its inter-rater reliability, and define the proper postnatal ages for gestation evaluation of extreme preterm neonates and of overall neonate population, the new Ballard scoring was implemented and researched in 578 neonates. Flexibility at the wrist joint and passive flexor tone at the main joints such the knee, shoulder, and hip were observed as neurologic and physical traits that may distinguish extreme preterm neonates from term neonates. By adding a score of -1, this information enabled the expansion of four of the neuromuscular criteria. The extreme preterm neonates were observed having transparent, sticky skin without lanugo, negligible breast marks, nearly undifferentiated genitalia upon physical examination. Based on these observations, the appropriate physical items was expanded and given a score of -1. The existing score's for "plantar surface" and "ear" physical maturational criteria were both expanded. Streeter<sup>44</sup> and Hem<sup>45</sup> both shown the correlation between length of foot and gestation age. Since the gestation age determined by the last menstrual period is equal to zero, accuracy is stated as the mean difference of the gestation ages determined by the New Ballard Score and the confirmed (GLMP') methods. For extreme premature neonates, the newly expanded NBS offers a reliable and precise estimation of gestation age. At gestational ages of less than 37 weeks, the NBS exaggerates weeks of gestation by 0.3 to 0.6 weeks (2 to 4 days). Because these newborns may have endured intrauterine pressures that hastened foetal maturation,<sup>44,45</sup> resulting in higher maturational

scores, this discrepancy is significant statistically for validation and accuracy at GA between 32 and 37 weeks.

The Ballard score can be applied up to four days after delivery and is dependent on the neonate's maturity as of physical and neuromuscular factors (practically, in first 24 hours of life it is used ). The physical components mature quickly after birth, whereas the neuromuscular components are more stable over a period.

The Ballard score is used to determine gestational age.

- Six physical and six neuromuscular signs of maturity are graded. The scores for each might be between -1 and 5. (Figure 3)
- The gestational age of the neonate is determined using the sum of the scores. The final score could range from -10 to 50..
- Low ratings are given to premature newborns. Late-born children do well academically.

### **Physical Maturity**

The physical assessment includes following characteristics examination

- **Skin texture:** Skin is sticky, translucent , or peeling.
- **Lanugo :** Soft downy hair on a neonates body; usually absent in neonates born early but not in babies born late.
- **Plantar creases :** Lines on the soles of the foot. They can either be completely absent or completely covered..
- **Breast :** The areola (the darkened region surrounding each nipple) characteristic and breast tissue size are measured.



- **Ears And Eyes** Checking whether the eyelids are open or fused shut (more likely in a premature baby). Additionally noted are the quantity of cartilage and the ear tissue's stiffness.
- **Male Genitalia.** To look for testes and that the scrotum is both smooth and wrinkled.
- **Female Genitalia.** It is noted how the clitoris and the labia look and measure.

### **Neuromuscular Assessment**

The neuromuscular assessment includes characteristics as follows for examination

- **Posture:** Position of ease of the neonates all 4 limbs at rest . Reflects muscle tone
- **Square window:** Ease of flex neonates hand in the direction of the wrist. Assess flexibility of wrist and resistance to extensor stretching.
- **Arm recoil.** How quickly the neonates' arms can flex back into place. Assess passive flexor tone of biceps followed by brief extension of upper extremity.
- **The popliteal angle** the neonates' knees' ability to bend and straighten. Assess knee passive extensor muscles tone and resistance to extension
- **Scarf sign.** how much room there is between the elbows and the neonate's chest. Assess tone of flexors around shoulder girdle passively.
- **Heel to ear:** How close the neonates heel may come to their ear. Assess neonates hip flexor muscle passive tone.

**Neuromuscular Maturity**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Posture								
Square Window (wrist)	>90°	90°	60°	45°	30°	0°		
Arm Recoil		180°	140°-180°	110°-140°	90°-110°	<90°		
Popliteal Angle	180°	160°	140°	120°	100°	90°	<90°	
Scarf Sign								
Heel to Ear								

**Physical Maturity**

	sticky friable transparent	gelatinous red, translucent	smooth pink, visible veins	superficial peeling &/or rash, few veins	cracking pale areas, rare veins	parchment deep cracking, no vessels	leathery cracked wrinkled
Langsg	none	sparse	abundant	thinning	bald areas	mostly bald	
Plantar Surface	heel-toe 40-50mm:-1 <40mm:-2	>50mm no crease	faint red marks	anterior transverse crease only	creases ant. 2/3	creases over entire sole	
Breast	imperceptible	barely perceptible	flat areola no bud	stippled areola 1-2mm bud	raised areola 3-4mm bud	full areola 5-10mm bud	
Eye/Ear	lids fused loosely:-1 tightly:-2	lids open pinna flat stays folded	sl. curved pinna; soft; slow recoil	well-curved pinna, soft but ready recoil	formed firm instant recoil	thick cartilage ear soft	
Genitals male	scrotum flat, smooth	scrotum empty faint rugae	testes in upper canal rare rugae	testes descending few rugae	testes down good rugae	testes pendulous deep rugae	
Genitals female	clitoris prominent labia flat	prominent clitoris small labia minora	prominent clitoris enlarging minora	majora & minora equally prominent	majora large minora small	majora cover clitoris & minora	

**Maturity Rating**

score	weeks
-10	20
-5	22
0	24
5	26
10	28
15	30
20	32
25	34
30	36
35	38
40	40
45	42
50	44

**Fig 3: The New Ballard Score**

## SCORING SYSTEMS FOR NEONATES

### CRIB

The Clinical Risk Index for Babies (CRIB) score was developed to forecast the death of neonates who were lesser than 32 weeks gestational age at birth. Neonates who were hospitalised to four tertiary neonatal facilities in the UK between 1988 and 1990 were the source of the data.<sup>27</sup> The cohort included 812 babies with VLBW, and 25% of them expired. The six variables that were most effective at predicting death were determined by the authors using logistic regression. Six factors make up the score, including a birth and clinical features components. It's important to remember that CRIB encompasses congenital problems that are not fatal and fall into the general categories of (1) not present, (2) not immediately life-threatening and (3) immediately life-threatening. This include comorbidity adjustment in the score, to put it another way. The CRIB clarifies population underlying risk in a way that systems using solely physiological indicators do not. This manoeuvre aids in highlighting variations in results received through the score (For instance, individuals who have cardiac problems are at a different risk than those who do not, depending on their infant's oxygen needs or blood gas readings).

Because it takes less time to complete, includes birth anomalies, and is still more accurate than birth weight alone, the CRIB may have some advantages over other early scores. When determining the severity of the sickness, GA of less than 31 weeks neonates and those with birth weights under 1,500 g are recognised as mortality indicator in neonates with LBW.

## CRIB - variables

BW
Gestation
Congenital malformation
Maximum base deficit in first 12 h
Minimum appropriate FiO2 in first 12 h
Maximum appropriate FiO2 in first 12 h

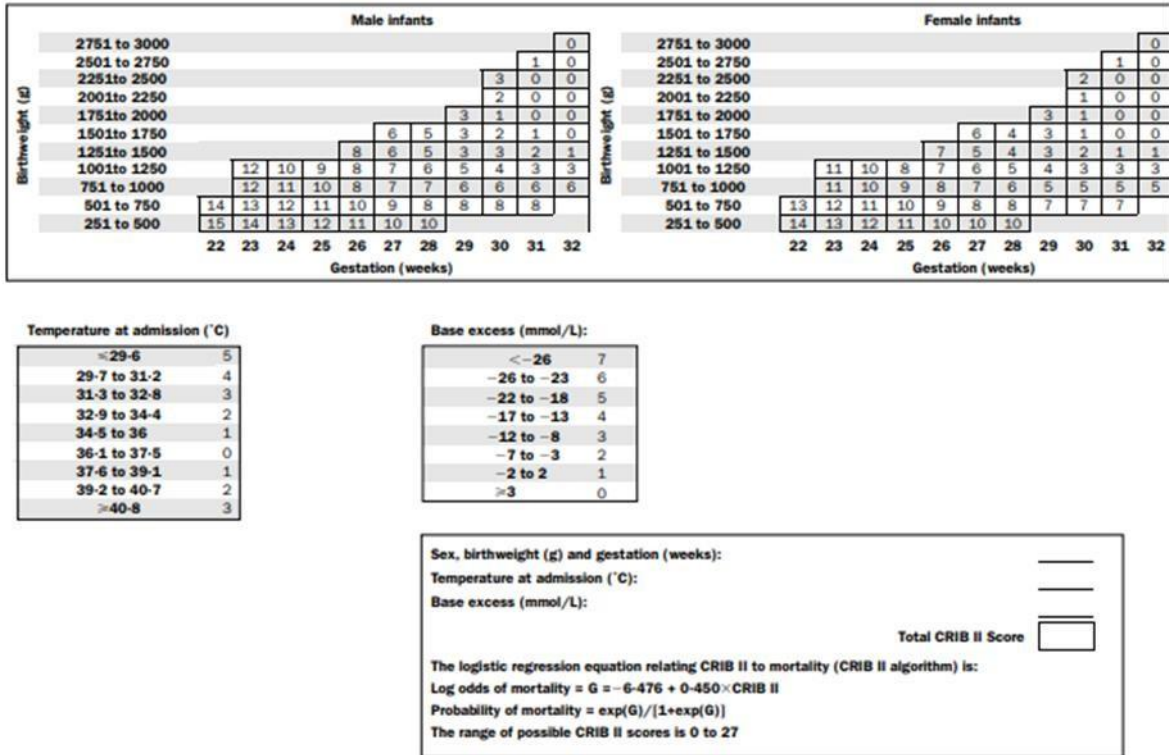
## CRIB II

Parry et al<sup>14</sup> updated the CRIB by publishing the CRIB II in 2003. Data from a cohort study in UK of neonates born during 1998 and 1999 was acquired<sup>28</sup>. The authors hypothesised that prenatal steroids and surfactant were the norm in the original sample, potentially increasing results and modifying risk of death. The most recent CRIB II is on information gathered in the initial hour of life and does not account for the likelihood of birth abnormalities. Despite the lack of comorbidity correction .It was discovered that CRIB II had better distinction than the initial CRIB score. To assess initial mortality risk, factors like BW, gestation age, temperature, base excess , and sex are taken into consideration.<sup>10</sup>

CRIB II varied from 0 to 27, (Figure 4), lower scores yielding better outcome of neonate and a score of one yielding the most favourable outcomes. The maximum score for BW and GA is 15, seen in male neonate who born at 22 weeks and birthweight of 501g.

### CRIB II- Scoring system variables

<b>Parameters</b>
<b>1. BW</b>
<b>2. POG</b>
<b>3. Sex</b>
<b>4. Temperature</b>
<b>5. Base deficit in ABG in first 12 hours</b>



Clinical risk index for babies II (CRIB II) score

**Fig 4 : CRIB II- Scoring system**

The range of the overall CRIB II score is 0 to 27. The scores have also been divided into the following four levels.:

- Level 1 - 0 to 5.
- Level 2 - 6 to 10.
- Level 3 - 11 to 15.
- Level 4 - Above 15.

The prognosis becomes worse as the score increases, with levels 3 and 4 having the poorest prognosis. According to earlier research, the ideal cutoff point for receiver operating characteristic is at 4.

## SNAP & SNAPPE

Richardson et al. released SNAP for the first time in 1993.<sup>29</sup> The Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation in critically sick people and the Physiology Stability Index served as models for the design of the SNAP. The SNAP components use the least favourable physiologic measurement among a number that takes place in a span of the 24 hours of admission (e.g., blood gas ,pH, MAP). Three Boston NICUs used a cohort of infants born in 1989 and 1990 to create the score. For neonates of all birthweights, SNAP comprises 26 clinical and vital variables, and for assessment it takes 5 to 15 minutes per patient to complete (depending on patient complexity). Strong accuracy was observed in the score's ability to predict neonatal in-hospital death. Birthweight, a 5-minute APGAR score, and SGA (5th percentile) are added to the physiologic variables of the SNAPPE, which also includes physiologic variable data from SNAP.<sup>30</sup> Compared to birthweight alone, SNAP and SNAP-PE clearly offered benefits and superiority. Their primary flaw was intensive the data collection process .

### SNAP- Scoring system variables

• BP
• HR
• RR
• Temperature
• PaO <sub>2</sub>
• PaO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> ratio
• PaCO <sub>2</sub>
• OI

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PCV</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WBC</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ITR</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ANC</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Platelet count</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BUN</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creatinine</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UO</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indirect bilirubin.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct bilirubin.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Na<sup>+</sup></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• K<sup>+</sup></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ca<sup>2+</sup> (ionised)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ca<sup>2+</sup> (total)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Glucose</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serum bicarbonate</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serum pH</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seizure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apnea</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stool guaiac</li></ul>



## SNAP PE- Scoring system variables

### SNAP score plus

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BW.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• APGAR score,7 at 5 min</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SGA</li></ul>

## SNAP II SNAPPE II

The SNAP and SNAP-PE were both updated by Richardson et al. in 2001. Their revised scores, SNAP II and SNAP-PE II, attempted to provide a more efficient strategy.<sup>31</sup> To create and validate their scores, the authors used a sizable group of newborns born in 1996 and 1997 in New England, California, and Canada. The SNAP's components were edited down to 6 elements (MBP , lowest recorded temperature, PaO<sub>2</sub> / FiO<sub>2</sub> ratio, serum pH, multiple convulsions, and UO), which made it easier for data abstractors to score tests in 4 minutes or less. Additionally, data were gathered 12 hours after admission rather than 24 hours later to minimize the initial treatment impact on scoring. Similar to the initial SNAP score, SNAP II was also extended to create the SNAPPE- II by including the perinatal extension factors. The improved SNAPPE II scores were accurate at predicting neonate morality and mortality in both high- and low-risk populations.

### SNAP II Scoring system variables <sup>30</sup>

• MBP
• Lowest temperature.
• paO <sub>2</sub> / FiO <sub>2</sub> ratio.
• Serum pH
• Multiple seizures
• UO

**SNAPE PEII- Scoring system variables****SNAP II score plus:**

• BW.
• Apgar at 5 min.
• Congenital malformation.
• SGA.

**SNAPPE II - Scoring variable with scores**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Lowest MBP</b>	<b>&gt;29mmHg</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>&lt;29mmHg</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Lowest temperature</b>	<b>&gt;35.6C</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>35-35.5C</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>&lt;35C</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PaO2/FiO2</b>	<b>&gt;2.49</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>1.0-2.49</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>0.3-0.99</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>&lt;0.3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Lowest Ph</b>	<b>&gt;7.19</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>7.10-7.19</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>&lt;7.10</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Seizures</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Urine Output</b>	<b>&gt;0.9ml/kg/h</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>0.1-0.9ml/kg/h</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>&lt;0.1ml/kg/h</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Birth weight</b>	<b>&gt;999g</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>750 – 999g</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>&lt;750g</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Small for gestational age</b>	<b>&lt;3<sup>rd</sup> percentile</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>&lt;3<sup>rd</sup> percentile</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APGAR score at 5 minutes</b>	<b>&gt;7</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>&lt;7</b>	<b>18</b>

## **ARTERIAL BLOOD GAS ANALYSIS.**

The norm for determining the neonate's oxygenation, ventilation, and acid-base status is arterial blood gas monitoring. Blood gas analysis is used as a diagnostic tool for assessing acid base features and partial pressure of gases. An oxygen (PaO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon dioxide partial pressure (PaCO<sub>2</sub>) analysis is performed on newborns. Information on the status of oxygenation and ventilation is provided by PaO<sub>2</sub> and PaCO<sub>2</sub>.

Acid-base status, hypoventilation (slow or shallow breathing), and hyperventilation (quick or deep breathing) have impact on PaCO<sub>2</sub>. Pulse oximetry and end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring are non-invasive evaluation of oxygenation and ventilation, ABG analysis is the gold standard method.<sup>46</sup>

## **Oxygenation**

Central cyanosis serves as the primary indication for the administration of oxygen. Acrocyanosis without central cyanosis does not warrant the delivery of oxygen. Instead of flow per minute, oxygen delivery should be dependent on a percentage of inspired oxygen (FiO<sub>2</sub>). In contrast to hyperoxia, which can harm preterm neonates' eyes, hypoxia can cause mortality and brain damage. Based on arterial oxygen tension, target oxygen is adjusted (PaO<sub>2</sub>) Arterial oxygen tension in children should be between 70 and 100 mm Hg, and between 50 and 70 mm Hg in term newborns. False hypoxia may be identified in individuals who have polycythemia, processing issues, venous blood, or who are deliriously ill. PaO<sub>2</sub> monitoring has been proven to have flaws despite being widely used. When blood gas samples are taken with indwelling catheters in a quiet environment, the results are most accurate..

**For collection of Samples** : Radial or umbilical arteries are the best options for neonatal artery sampling. Before piercing the radial artery, "Allen Test" should be performed to verify collateral blood flow in the ulnar artery. A sample from an umbilical artery catheter (UAC), should ensure that blood is flowing freely and remove three to four times the volume of dead space. Indwelling arterial lines should only be implanted if 24-hour ABG estimation facilities are available since they represent a serious risk of infection.

A "blood gas analysis" usually can be performed by collection of blood either from artery, vein or capillary but arterial sampling explicities other samples in circulation.

Arterialized capillary samples are comparable to arterial blood. It is necessary to collect a capillary sample (100–150 microliters) from the warmed heel and to wait for the capillary to fill up with blood at the tissue site. Do not squeeze or draw the initial drop of blood. To combine the anticoagulant and the blood, rotate the capillary in your hand. Make that the capillary is free of air bubbles. While venous blood is ineffective for determining pH, pCO<sub>2</sub>, and pO<sub>2</sub>, it is effective in determining HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>. A tourniquet should not be used, the artery should not be squeezed, and the sample should not be extracted with the blood flowing toward the heart.

### Comparison of Blood Gas Analysis at different sites

	Arterial	Capillary	Venous
<b>pH</b>	Same	-----	Lower
<b>pO<sub>2</sub></b>	Higher	—————→	<b>Lower</b>
<b>pCO<sub>2</sub></b>	Lower	—————→	Higher
<b>HCO<sub>3</sub></b>	Same	-----	Same
<b>Recommendation</b>	Good	Fair	Bad

### Precautions for collection of blood sample

- (1) Heparin reduces pH as it is acidic. Use heparin solution or a weaker form of heparin (1000 units per ml as opposed to 5000 units per ml).
- (2) Use a tiny amount of heparinized saline to lubricate the plunger and syringe alone. Dissolved oxygen in heparinized saline may raise pO<sub>2</sub> if volume is greater.
- (3) Prevent air bubbles and allow the syringe to fill naturally.
- (4) Glass syringes are preferable since plastic syringes allow air to pass through them.

To lessen the chance of inaccurate results, the sample should be processed instantly. Arterial blood should be collected, kept on slush of ice, and then promptly analysed. Being a biological medium cells in blood use oxygen and release CO<sub>2</sub> as byproducts. Initial pO<sub>2</sub> determines how much pO<sub>2</sub> drops. The latter could experience a big drop if it is quite high. Before inserting the sample into the machine, it should be agitated and homogenised.. Blood gas samples are frequently analysed using automated devices that produce results in 10 to 15 minutes.

Automated blood gas analysers measure particular arterial blood gas sample constituents both directly and inferentially.

**Normal Neonatal ABG values**

**pH 7.35 – 7.45mmHg**

**pCO<sub>2</sub> 35 – 45 mm Hg**

**pO<sub>2</sub> 50 – 70 mm Hg**

**HCO<sub>3</sub> 20 – 24 mEq/L**

**BE ± 5.**

**Target blood gas values of a neonate**

	<b>&lt;28 wks</b>	<b>28-40wks</b>
<b>paO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>45-65</b>	<b>50-70</b>
<b>pCO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>40-50</b>	<b>40-60</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>&gt;7.25</b>	<b>&gt;7.25</b>



**Base excess (BE) :** Neonates have a buffer base (BB) concentration of 48–49 mmol/L total. HCO<sub>3</sub> accounts for 50% of this, followed by haemoglobin buffers at 25%, and protein, sulphate, and phosphate buffers at 25%. A BE score of less than five is regarded as normal. Abnormal pH with BE > -5 (base deficit >5) with imbalance needs intervention. Basic supportive care and specific therapies intended to address the underlying cause are used to treat neonatal metabolic acidosis. Metabolic acidosis caused on by asphyxia or inadequate tissue perfusion is typically corrected by treating hypothermia, hypovolemia, (anaemia, hypoxia, and electrolyte abnormalities). If sepsis is suspected, antibiotics should be administered. A significant number of infants need ventilator support.<sup>46</sup>

## **Interpretation**

It is optimal to approach the arterial blood gases methodically. identifying the degree or severity of aberrations, their duration either acute vs chronic, and if the underlying problem is respiratory or metabolic in nature.

The first step is to check the pH to see whether there is acidemia (pH < 7.35) or alkalemia (pH > 7.45). Normal pH is between 7.3 and 7.45, use a cut off value of 7.40. In other words, a pH of 7.37 is considered acidosis, whereas a alkalemia is when pH of 7.42. To ascertain the components of respiratory and metabolic analyse the ABG's , PaCO<sub>2</sub> and HCO<sub>3</sub> data. The paCO<sub>2</sub> indicates a respiratory or metabolic acidosis or alkalosis is the main cause of the acidosis or alkalemia. Respiratory alkalosis is indicated by PaCO<sub>2</sub> < 40 and pH > 7.4, whereas respiratory acidosis is indicated by PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 40 and pH < 7.4. (however this is frequently caused by anxiety-induced hyperventilation or compensatory hypoxia).

Next, determine whether a number (PaCO<sub>2</sub> or HCO<sub>3</sub>) that deviates from pH is indicative of compensatory acidosis or alkalosis. Once again check the PaO<sub>2</sub> for any abnormalities in oxygenation.

### **Oxygen Saturation:**

The normal ranges for arterial oxygen tension in children are 70-100 mm Hg and 50-70 mm Hg in term infants. Pseudo hypoxia may be detected in cases of polycythemia, processing delays, venous blood, or in patients who are feverish. Despite being widely utilised, paO<sub>2</sub> monitoring has been found to have shortcomings. When blood gas samples from indwelling catheters are taken under peaceful, resting conditions, the validity of the values is maximised.

Hemoglobin saturation is calculated as the ratio of the amount of oxygen bound to haemoglobin to the maximum amount of oxygen that can be bound to haemoglobin. Pulse oximetry is useful for observing oxygenation trends. Compared to TcPO<sub>2</sub> monitors, this technology is less complicated and does not require the same level of user expertise or calibration. It gauges peripheral haemoglobin O<sub>2</sub> saturation (SaO<sub>2</sub>). Sometimes, movement artefacts might severely restrict the use of these techniques. High-intensity light, >50% foetal Hb, and other conditions can also cause saturation measurement errors. Since pulse oximetry does not measure paO<sub>2</sub>, it is comparatively insensitive to the presence of hyperoxemia. This is especially crucial for little preterm babies. The ideal haemoglobin saturation level for acute lung disease is 88 to 93% as determined by the pulse oximeter. 95–98% saturation is typical. If saturation falls below 75%, clinical cyanosis becomes obvious. Hemoglobin A is 75% saturated at paO<sub>2</sub> of 40 mmHg, 50% saturated at paO<sub>2</sub> of 27 mmHg (P50), and 90% saturated at paO<sub>2</sub> of 60 mmHg. <sup>46</sup> (Figures 5, 6)

**Oxygen Dissociation Curve – Fetal Haemoglobin**

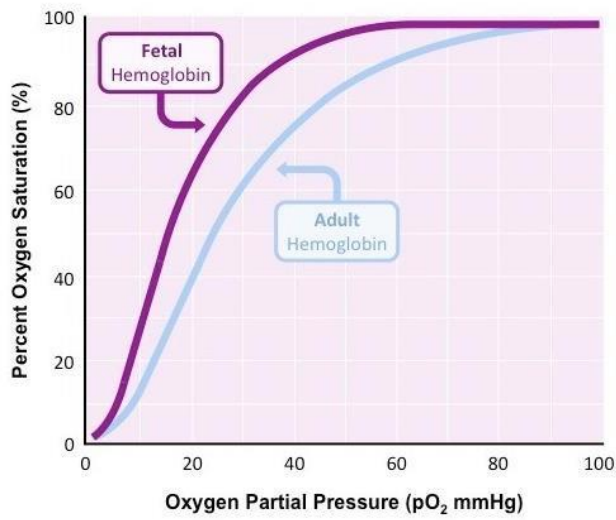


FIG :5: Oxygen Dissociation Curve – Fetal Hemoglobin v/s Adult Hemoglobin

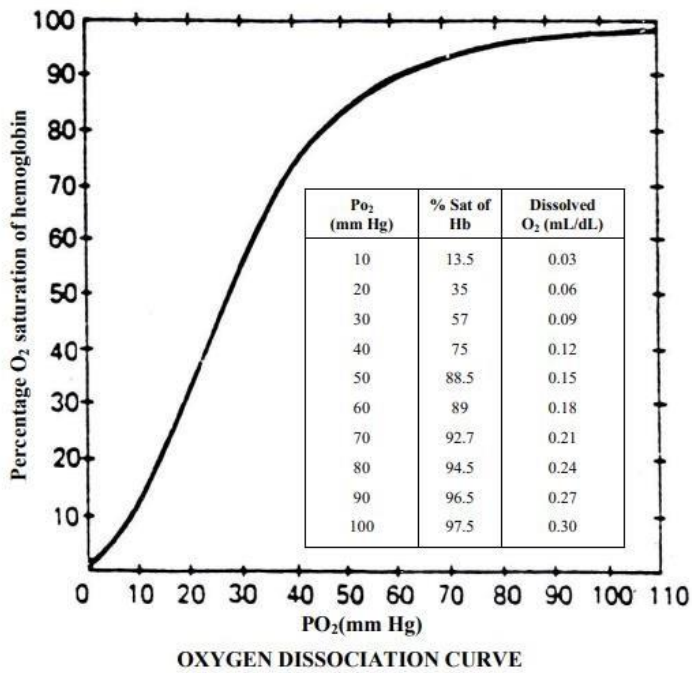
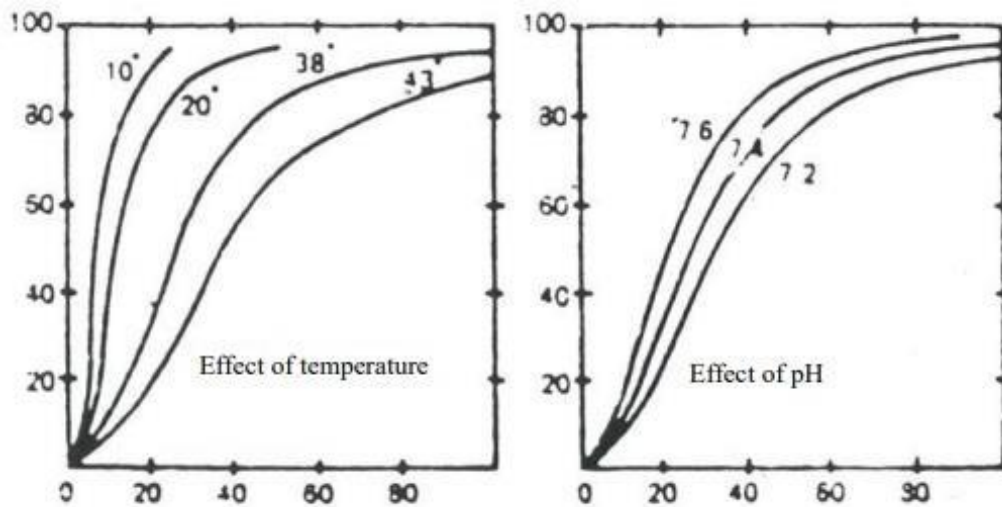


Figure 6: Oxygen Dissociation Curve of Neonate

## Effect of temperature and pH on Oxygen Dissociation Curve

The oxygen dissociation curve is a sigmoid shape curve which plateaus at  $pO_2 > 70$  mm Hg. A patient with a very high  $paO_2$  usually has saturation of 97–99%. (Figure II). Changes in the haemoglobin type, pH, temperature and 2,3-diphosphoglycerate concentrations all have an impact on where the oxy-hemoglobin dissociation curve is located (2,3-DPG). Fetal haemoglobin has stronger affinity for oxygen binding than adult haemoglobin, which causes it to push the curve to the left. The  $paO_2$  at which haemoglobin is 50% saturated ( $P_{50}$ ) decreases as a result. The foetus benefits from this change because it favours  $O_2$  utilization at the placenta's low  $O_2$  tensions. During the initial few months of life, the oxy-hemoglobin dissociation curve shift to the right, reaching adult values by 4 and 6 months of age. (Figure7)



**Figure 7: Effect of temperature and pH on Oxygen Dissociation Curve**

## APGAR for Neonatal Resuscitation

Dr Virginia Apgar created a scoring system in 1952 as a quick way to determine the neonates clinical condition at one minute of age and the need for immediate intervention to establish breathing.<sup>48</sup> A scoring system gave newborns a consistent evaluation following delivery. The Apgar score (Figure 8) is made from of 5 parameters: (1) color; (2) heart rate; (3) reflexes; (4) muscle tone; and (5) respiration.<sup>48</sup> A score of 0, 1, or 2 is assigned to each of these factors. The Apgar score measures the clinical signs of neonatal depression, including appearance , heart rate , a reflex response to stimuli, tone , and respirations.

THE APGAR SCORE				
	Sign	0 POINTS	1 POINTS	2 POINTS
<b>A</b>	Appearance	blue or pale	blue extremities pink body	body & extremities pink, no cyanosis
<b>P</b>	Pulse	absent	<100 beats per minute	>100 beats per minute
<b>G</b>	Grimace	no response to stimulation, floppy	grimace on suction or aggressive stimulation	cry on stimulation
<b>A</b>	Activity	none	some flexion of arms and legs	active flexion against resistance
<b>R</b>	Respirations	absent	weak, irregular and slow	strong crying

FIG 8 : APGAR score with parameters and scores

At 1 and 5 minutes after birth, the score is recorded for every neonate. Scores for babies with scores between 7, are provided every five minutes from then on until twenty minutes. The Apgar score is a recognised and practical way to report on the neonate baby's condition just after birth and their reaction to resuscitation. According to the 2011 Neonatal Resuscitation Program recommendations, stopping resuscitative measures "may be reasonable if you can determine that no heart rhythm has been observed for at least 10 minutes."

According to the Neonatal Encephalopathy and Neurologic Outcome report, a APGAR score of 7 to 10 is regarded as positive at 5 minutes of life , a score of 4 to 6 as abnormal, and a score of 0 to 3 as low in term and near term neonates. A non-specific symptom that "may be

one of the early indicators of encephalopathy" is Apgar score of 0 to 3 at 5 minutes or more of life.<sup>50</sup> According to the definition of asphyxia, it is the significant disruption of gas exchange that, if left untreated, results in progressive hypoxemia, hypercapnia, and significant metabolic acidosis. A useful indicator of a neonate response to resuscitation is the APGAR score at 5 minutes more specifically, ia change in the score between 1 and 5 minutes of life .

## **TEMPERATURE**

The infant's mortality and morbidity may be severely affected by hypothermia and hyperthermia. The onset of haemorrhagic processes is brought on by hypothermia, which also alters glucose homeostasis and increases oxygen consumption. Dehydration, hypernatremia, and eventual death can all result from hyperthermia, as potentially cause cerebral damage. Neonatal should be dried and placed under radiant heat as soon as possible after delivery.

### **Assessment of temperature: Skin temperature**

A thermistor probe is softly taped to the skin to record it. The skin on the trunk has a greater central skin temperature than the skin on the rest of the body. The skin's core temperature is more constant. In term neonates , the typical abdomen temperature ranges from  $36 \pm 0.5$  C. Due to insufficient subcutaneous tissue, the skin temperatures of premature newborns range from  $36.6 \pm 0.6$  C , which is near to the core temperature. Infants who are in shock or who are collapsing will have a differential in skin temperature between their centre and periphery. Suspect sepsis if the difference is more than 1.5 C. Abnormal temperature readings are the result of attaching skin probes to skin that has been burned or injured.

## **Definition of temperature variations in neonates**

Hyperthermia when temperature is  $> 37.5$  °C.

Normal temperature from  $37 \pm 0.5$  °C .

Cold stress is temperature  $36.2 \pm 0.2$  °C.

Moderate hypothermia  $34.2 \pm 2.2$  °C.

Severe hypothermia -  $< 32$  °C.

## **SHOCK**

Shock is a pathophysiologic state of inadequate tissue perfusion. This effects is reversible initially, but prolonged hypoperfusion and tissue hypoxia can disrupt critical biochemical processes, which if not addressed, result in cell death, end-organ failure, and, possibly, death. In neonatal critical care units, perfusion disorders in neonates are frequently seen. The majority of the existing assessment techniques are based on clinical indicators. Capillary refilling time, urine output, heart rate, peripheral colour, base excess in ABG, lactate concentration, and blood pressure are examples of commonly recommended symptoms. Each measurement's permissible limits are embedded in practise, but they all take end-organ perfusion into account <sup>51</sup>

## **HYPOTENSION:**

According to reports, 16 to 52% <sup>51,52</sup> of premature neonate's experience hypotension. Because there is a chance of negative short- and long-term prognoses, it is crucial to identify and treat hypotension in preterm newborns. Preterm infants' blood pressure can be tested noninvasively and invasively, using intra-arterial catheters. The standard of care is invasive blood pressure measurement. The pressure required to enable appropriate organ perfusion should be used to define normal BP. Depending on GA, birth weight, and postnatal age, the typical values will vary. 73% of units across the 38 nations studies the diagnosis of hypotension in neonates with extraordinarily low gestational ages was made when the mean blood pressure recorded was less than the gestational age as the criterion. All of these have a minimal impact on mean blood pressure, making it dependable even in the context of a damped trace. It reflects the perfusion pressure and is derived from the systolic and diastolic pressures.<sup>52</sup>



Cunningham et al<sup>53</sup> has analysed on a large cohort of patients during initial seven days of life in VLBW neonates excluding infants on inotropic support and IVH. He said hypotension is less than the 10th centile for BW (Figure 9) and postnatal age. Hypotension affects perfusion to all organs leading to multiorgan dysfunction mainly affecting cerebral blood flow .

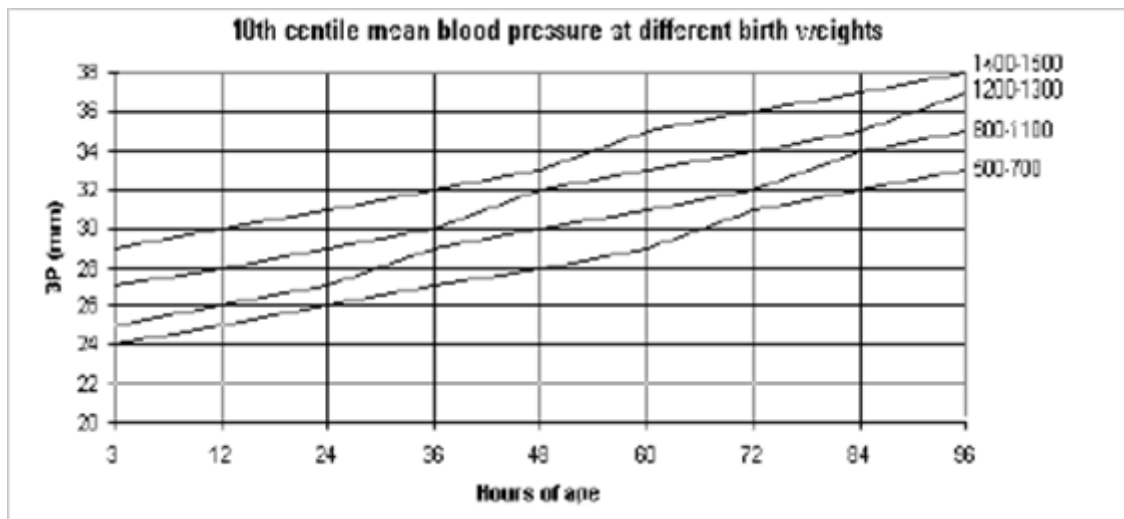


Fig 9 : Mean Arterial Pressure at different Birthweight – 10<sup>th</sup> percentile



Fig 10 : NIBP measured in neonate

British Association of Perinatal Medicine experts recommended and proposed a guidelines on mean blood pressure (MBP) implementation in management of respiratory distress syndrome neonates as the value of mean blood pressure less than the gestational age neonates 31 weeks gestation were reported to have serious haemorrhage, ischemic brain lesions, or die within 48 hours if their mean blood pressure was 30 mm Hg for 1 hour. A thorough evaluation of perfusion provides more useful information than merely using mean blood pressure. More often, measures of systolic and diastolic blood pressure that reflect cardiac function and systemic vascular resistance should be utilised to guide therapy.

## **URINE OUTPUT**

UO demonstrated good in-hospital mortality prediction performance. Patients with lower UO had higher SNAPPE-II scores and greater perinatal asphyxia at NICU admission. Additionally, these patients exhibited higher levels of metabolic issues (acidosis and hyperkalaemia), which are risk factors for AKI (perinatal asphyxia). These characteristics imply that renal impairment was essentially present in patients with decreased UO. In individuals with limited UO, mechanical ventilation lasted longer. Because larger values indicate death in LBW neonates, LBW was a protective factor against lower UO. UO was a standalone mortality predictor in the multivariate study.

## Other Scoring System

### National Institute of Child Health And Human Development (NICHHD)

Using data from 1823 children born between 1987 and 1989, weighing 501–1500 g<sup>34</sup>, who were admitted to seven United States neonatal intensive care, the NICHHD score was developed. The variables were chosen through the use of logistic regression, and another 1780 infants were utilised for validation. Since its creation, it has not been extensively utilised.

#### NICHHD- Scoring system variables

BW
Apgar score at 1 min
Race
SGA
Sex

## Berlin Score

With 396 VLBW development neonates ,176 VLBW neonates validated between 1988 and 1991, this German score was created using logistic regression techniques.<sup>30</sup> Its incorporation of several arbitrary factors<sup>35</sup> causes problems. Because of the addition of these data points, it can no longer be used to compare units objectively.

### Berlin Score- Scoring system variables

Birth weight
Respiratory Distress Syndrome grading
Artificial ventilation
APGAR score at 5 min
Base excess at admission

## Neonatal Mortality Prognosis Index (NMPI)

To determine the predictive markers collected up to 12 hours after admission from 336 Mexican neonates in 1993<sup>36</sup>, this score was created using logistic regression. A second cohort of 300 neonates was used to validate the model. It has not been utilised extensively.

### NMPI- Scoring system variables <sup>36</sup>

BW
GA
Cardiac arrest
PaO <sub>2</sub> / FiO <sub>2</sub> ratio
Major congenital malformations
Sepsis
Base excess

## **Vermont Oxford Network-Risk Adjustment and Revalidation of SNAP II/SNAP-PE II**

The Vermont Oxford Network compares results among its 500 centres using a unique method of risk adjustment called VON-RA. Zupancic et al.<sup>37</sup> Initial study that introduced the VON-RA was released in 2007. This study was based on information gathered in 2002, when 58 participating centres attempted SNAP II and SNAP-PE II must be revalidated. The researchers also intended to assess the VON-RA's performance in relation to these scores and ascertain the relative impact of birth abnormalities on the VON-RA performance. Importantly, this research discovered that the performance of the SNAP-PE II score was greatly enhanced by the inclusion of birth abnormalities. The research also revealed similarly results to the SNAP-PE II plus birth defects .

**Application of predictive scores:**

For comparison of performances among varied neonatal intensive care units, it is widely accepted that outcomes results must be appropriately adjusted for case mix variations (risk adjustment).<sup>38</sup> One would anticipate a high percentage of "good" results from a unit that tends to solely serve patients with favourable prognoses. Conversely, those who care for patients with poor prognoses should anticipate more "bad" results. In these scenarios, The neonatal morbidity at the time of its arrival into the charge of the unit should be assessed. In order to compare healthcare professionals and units, illness severity scores are now widely recognised as crucial instruments. The rates of medication use, blood transfusions, and other outcomes have all been examined using illness severity scores. The other situations where predictive scores find their application are determining the trends in results over time and giving prognostic information to individual children.<sup>5</sup>

## Performance Of Illness Severity Scores:

The score had superior discriminatory capacity than birth weight alone ( $Az = 0.78$ ) in the original study that led to the establishment of CRIB (area under the ROC curve:  $Az = 0.90$ ).<sup>27</sup> Although CRIB was a better predictor of hospital mortality than BW alone, its relation with morbidity was undefined clearly. The appropriateness of CRIB with contemporary data was reconsidered, as score might be poorly calibrated to mortality following NICU, as BW and GA alone were poor predictors than this score. CRIB included data up to 12 hours after admission, introducing a treatment bias. When compared to other more complex scores, such as SNAP and SNAP-PE, the CRIB's data acquisition is significantly more simple, with each neonates calculation taking only five minutes as contrasted to 20 to 30 minutes.<sup>5</sup>

The recalibrated and streamlined scoring system offered by CRIB II does deal with any potential issues that could arise from using FiO<sub>2</sub> and data collected up to 12 hours after admission. The findings of Patrick et al. regarding decreasing hospital mortality since 1988 were in accordance with those of other studies<sup>30</sup>. This decline might be explained by improved clinical judgement, the introduction of surfactant therapy in the late 1980s, and the rise in prenatal steroid use in the early 1990s. The creators of CRIB-2 recommended more research to determine the long-term effects of greater clinical abilities, increased uptake of efficient treatments, and improved service organisation on health outcomes. Before assessing declining mortality as a health gain, they also advocated for routine evaluation of the long-term health of neonatal intensive care survivors.

In Richardson's comparison, SNAP-PE was even more accurate for predicting death than birthweight alone ( $Az\ 0.87\ v\ 0.77$ ). ( $Az\ 0.93$ ).<sup>30</sup> Due to the quantity and complexity of the elements, SNAP proved problematic to use as a first-generation neonatal illness severity index score.



The authors of SNAPPE II have outlined a number of justifications for their conclusions, some of which are listed below.<sup>31</sup> GA was chosen over BW in perinatal extension as it was more physiological and acceptable to the population norm. That decision was made due to limitations on the gestational age's accuracy and availability. Pao<sub>2</sub> / Fio<sub>2</sub> was chosen over other alveolar ratio with arterial oxygen or difference as it require any additional parameters like mean airway pressure or concurrent carbon dioxide tension . They made an effort to get rid off with the UO because it calls for risky bedside calculations and is susceptible to inaccurate measurement. Even among infants with very low birth weights, it continued to be consistently highly predictive, and it is a significant predictor in babies with greater birthweights. The data collecting window was lowered from the period of 24 hours to 12 hours. Thus, the impacts of treatment bias are lessened. Even if it was possible, reducing the data collecting window to less than 12 hours might have led to deteriorating data quality and decreased predictive power. In SNAPPE- II, the physiological parameters were differentiated from the additional risk that was posed by birth weight, SGA, and Apgar scores. This was done in order to give academics and medical professionals a mechanism to account for mortality risk factor against birthweight ranges while still comparing basic physiological abnormalities within constrained birth weight strata. In contrast to the CRIB, ratings in adult and paediatric intensive care units distinguish physiologic variations from other risk factors. The scientists also believed that as intensive care advances, the relative proportions of illness severity and birth weight may change over time with reference to mortality.

Because the physiologic variables for SNAP-II were calculated from mortality risk, they were extremely wide. In the original SNAP, they did not retain a wide variety of sublethal physiologic derangements. They propose that SNAP might still be a more effective tool for research on the treatment of individuals who are just mildly unwell, such as neonatal triage. The SNAPPE - II score at admission describes the risk of neonatal mortality during the first 12 hours. It is not intended to be used as a sequential score over a period of time. Richardson et al. optimised

the calibration separately after first elaborating the SNAP- II and SNAPPE -II scores. This made it possible for the two scores to continue to be simple additive sums while also allowing us to include sophisticated higher order and interacting terms to improve the fit.

## Critical Review Of Scoring Systems.

A cut-off of 27.5 for SNAPPE II was reported, with 84% sensitivity and 79% specificity, and reported accuracy of 0.887 (CI 95%:0.847-0.927) (P0.05). Dalili et al. evaluated CRIB II and SNAP PE II for predicting mortality in preterm (32 weeks) or LBW (1500 g) admitted to NICU in Iran. The cut off of 27.5 to 29.5 and Youden's index was 0.64. The SNAPPE-II found that at a cut-off point of 27, prognostic sensitivity of 84.44% and specificity 79.05%.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, these comparable results were 82.22% (CI 95%: 82.222 - 82.223) and 81.42% (CI 95% : 81.422 - 8.423) at the cut-off point of 29.5. According to same study, the CRIB II method has a cut-off point of 8.5 with sensitivity and specificity of 74.4% and 78.65%, respectively. For a one-unit rise in SNAPPE-II and a one level in CRIB-II, respectively, the chances of neonatal mortality increased by 1.05 (CI 95%: 1.02-1.1102) and 2.696 (CI 95%: 1.59-4.72) respectively. These conclusions were reached after taking into account factors like IVH, head circumference, length of hospital stay, weight, height, and height.

Timothy et al assessed SNAPPE II as a predictor of neonatal mortality in a general hospital's NICU, Indonesia reported a strong association between SNAPPE II and mortality and recommended a cut-off of 51. This study also demonstrated great calibration using the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness-of-fit and excellent discrimination (AUC 0.933, 95% CI- 0.843-1). A higher cut-off indicates that the centre's neonates have higher survival rates. Patrick et al evaluation of 10 distinct risk adjustment scores for neonates mortality highlighted the necessity for risk adjustment to alter as clinical population demands and conditions change and the need for additional research for extrapolation people in other developed countries and to developing country population settings.<sup>4</sup>

The cut-off score point for neonatal mortality prediction was 38, with a sensitivity of 84.4% and specificity of 91%, according to Muktan et al prospective observational study carried

out in Nepal to evaluate the reliability of the SNAPPE- II score as a predictor of neonatal mortality and length of stay in NICU.<sup>9</sup> The babies who passed away had significantly higher median (IQR) SNAPPE II scores [57 (42-64) vs. 22(14-32), P 0.001] than the surviving children. The area under the curve (AUC) for the ROC curve was 0.917 [95% CI 0.854-0.980]. The most reliable method for predicting overall mortality was the SNAPPE II cut-off score of 38. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value of the overall mortality estimate are 84.4, 91, 66.7, and 96.5%, respectively, for estimating overall mortality.

The CRIB II score was found to be a reliable tool for initial risk assessment in LBW in a prospective study by Eldin from Egypt, with a cutoff point of 11 being highly sensitive (94.9%) and reasonably good specificity (82.4%)<sup>7</sup>. Eldin's study also indicates that mortality increased steadily as CRIB II score levels increased; mortality was (0%), (4.8%), (68.3%) and (100%) in level I, level II, level III, and level IV of CRIB II, respectively. For CRIB II, GA and BW, the areas under the curve (AUC) were 0.968 (95% CI=0.940-0.996), 0.900 (95% CI=0.844-0.957), and 0.834 (95% CI=0.753-0.914), respectively. Additionally, ROC curve analysis showed that the cut-off points of 11 for CRIB II score, 28 for gestational age, and 1100 for birthweight had the best sensitivity and specificity for predicting death. The CRIB II score (86.7%) was shown to have the highest accuracy (the percentage of genuine outcomes, including true positives and true negatives), followed by gestational age (81.4%) and birthweight (72.5%).

SNAP PE-II and CRIB-II illness severity scores were used in another prospective multicentric study in the Indian population by Vardhelli et al. to predict neonatal mortality and morbidities in 32 weeks POG . Both scores had better predictive ability in hospital mortality, namely CRIB-II (AUC 0.795) and SNAPPE II (AUC: 0.78).<sup>39</sup> CRIB II and SNAPPE II had comparable AUCs for mortality predictivity, with CRIB-II's AUC .of 0.79 (95% confidence interval (CI) : 0.73-0.86) and SNAPPE-AUC II's of 0.78 (95% CI: 0.69-0.86) showing no statistically significant difference between them (difference: 0.016, 95% CI: 0.09 to 0.06, P-

value: 0.6) The discriminatory power of the two scoring systems was comparable (SNAPPE-II: HL 2 = 2.157, 6 degrees of freedom (d.f.); p = 0.905; CRIB-II HL 2 = 6.579, 8 d.f.; p = 0.583). With AUCs of 0.83 vs 0.70 and 0.85 vs 0.74, respectively, CRIB-II beat SNAPPE-II in its ability to predict important morbidities and their combined unfavourable result. AUC was similar to CRIB II in terms of mortality prediction (0.78 vs 0.79), however SNAPPE-II showed higher accuracy (73.7% vs. 60%). The mortality and morbidities increased along with the rise in SNAPPE-II and CRIB-II scores, with the exception of SNAPPE-II's ability to predict Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) requiring treatment.

According to a Harsha and Archana, a SNAPPE-II score of 37 or above was linked to a greater mortality rate.<sup>8</sup> In term neonates, the mean SNAPPE-II score was 24.1 (15) for children who survived and 52.8 (15) for children who died, but in preterm neonate, the scores were 14.87 (13), 31.7 (16), and 14.87 (13), respectively, for children who survived and died. Regardless of gestational age, SNAPPE-II demonstrated a high association with the result in terms of mortality. In this study, increased mortality was linked to SNAPPE-II scores of 37 and above.

Gagliardi *et al* a VLBW neonates in 12 NICUs of local network study was conducted in Italy between 1999 and 2001, it assessed the effectiveness of CRIB, CRIB-II, and SNAPPE-II to evaluate in-hospital mortality. CRIB and CRIB-II showed greater variation than SNAPPE-II. (AUC 0.90 and 0.91 compared to 0.84) They suggested that a few variables needed for the SNAPPE-II computation may not have been of high quality, such as urine production in VLBW neonates. None of the ratings offered a reliable prediction of the likelihood of death because multiple additional variables that were closely connected with survival in several logistic regression models were included in addition to the scores. Antenatal steroid treatment, caesarean section, singleton delivery, APGAR score of greater than seven at 5 minutes, lack of SGA, absence of any congenital abnormality were tended to be significantly correlated to longer survival among VLBW neonate.

Dorling et al. performed a thorough analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of illness severity score algorithms. The review brought attention to the SNAP scores' diminished ability to distinguish between the most preterm infants.<sup>5</sup> Neonates with either BW and GA are eligible to use SNAPPE - II, which was created and is largely applied in the western developed places like US , Canada, whereas neonates with VLBW neonate are only eligible to use CRIB<sup>7</sup>, which was created in the United Kingdom and is primarily in Europe.

A prospective study by Maliheh Kadivar and colleagues was carried out in Tehran, Iran, from September 1, 2003, to August 28, 2004, and published in 2007. In this study, 213 neonates who had been admitted to the NICU were given the SNAPPE II score. 119 (60.1%) of the patients who underwent evaluation were male, with a mean age and SD of 7.6(0.5) days. The mean (SD) for birthweight was 2479.8 (29.4) grams, SNAPPE II score 21.6 (1.1), and Apgar scores at 1 minute were 7.47 (0.08) and 7.71 (0.06) at 5 minutes, respectively. The mean (SD) gestational age was 35.8 (0.2) weeks. The Chi-square test revealed that the gestational age (P=0.03) and birthweight (P=0.02) were very significant. Only SNAP and Apgar at 5 minutes may significantly predict neonatal mortality, according to an analysis using regression of logistics to determine the predictive value of these indicators for mortality. 42.1% of neonates who died had an Apgar score of less than 7 at 5 minutes. The neonatal mortality rate was 19.4% with a SNAPPE II score of greater than 19 points.

Another study was conducted on 191 neonates in Tehran, Iran, by Mitra Radfar et al. to determine the usefulness of the SNAP II and SNAPPE II scoring systems as indicators of the neonatal death rate, the current study was done. The difference between the mean age at admission (P = 0.037) and gestational age (P- 0.001) was statistically significant to 23. With the exception of the presence of seizures, all SNAP and SNAP II PE factors demonstrated a significant connection with neonates' survival (p 0.001). According to the study, SNAP II has an

AUC of 0.992 and SNAPPE II has an AUC of 0.994, both of which have a very high predictive value for survival. The two methods had no statistically significant difference

Dhruba Shrestha performed an observational prospective research in Kathmandu, Nepal, where physiological information for the SNAP II and SNAPPE II score were gathered within 12 hours after admission. In a Nepal NICU with minimal resources, the goal of this study is to determine their effective use in predicting mortality. 29 (23.9%) of the 126 newborns involved in the study died. When SNAP II was  $>40$ , mortality was 83% (5/6) and 66.7% (6/9) when SNAPPE II was more than 50. For predicting mortality, a SNAP II score of 12 had a sensitivity and a specificity of 75.9% and 73.2% respectively, while a SNAPPE II score of 14 had a sensitivity of 82.8% and a specificity of 67.0%.

Data from emerging nations like India are scarce for CRIB II and SNAPPE II score validation. There is a need to evaluate the validity of these scores to predict mortality in diverse resource situations because the neonates' clinical profile and their outcomes may vary in our scenario. This may facilitate prioritising neonates with illnesses and providing their parents with information about the severity of their conditions..

## Methods and Materials

**Study design:** It is a prospective observational study.

**Study setting:** The study was done in the Department of Paediatrics, Shri B.M.Patil Medical College Hospital And Research Centre, Vijayapura.

**Study participants:** All neonates admitted to LEVEL III A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), BLDE (Deemed to be University), Shri B. M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE, VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA who met inclusion criteria for a period from Jan 2021 to June 2022.

**Inclusion criteria:**

Preterm neonates

i) Gestational ages between 26 to 34 weeks.

ii) Birth weights from 500 to 2499 grams.

**Exclusion criteria:**

i) Gross congenital anomaly detected in the antenatal scan

ii) Neonates who were out of the hospital before the data collection was finished.

**Number of groups to be studied:** Two

Group 1 – Newborns who survived

Group 2 – Newborns who did not survive



## **Method of collection of Data**

Low birth weight neonates admitted to NICU were enrolled to the study. Neonatal data including birth weight, gestational age, gender, temperature at admission were documented. The neonates were assessed at birth by APGAR @ 1 minute and 5 minutes, need for resuscitation at birth. The neonates admitted were monitored for temperature, blood pressure (MBP), seizures and urine output. Arterial blood gas analysis was done for all neonates enrolled and parameters were assessed. Need for inotropic support were assessed depending on vital parameters like heart rate, mean arterial pressure, ECHO findings. Neonatal outcomes at the time of discharge were assessed.

## **Scoring Parameter:**

### **CRIB II scoring<sup>28</sup>**

- BW
- GA
- Gender
- Base Excess
- Temperature

### **SNAPPE-II scoring system<sup>31</sup>**

- MBP.
- Temperature.
- Serum pH.
- PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> ratio.
- UO.
- Seizures.
- BW.
- GA.
- 5 minute Apgar score.

In this study, information like the Apgar score and history were recorded. Digital scales are used to assess the weight of neonates. A temperature at admission was measured and recorded. Neonates required oxygen via a hood, ventilators, or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machines were documented and FiO<sub>2</sub> was noted which was necessary to maintain a normal SpO<sub>2</sub>. Neonatal specialists examine neonates within the first 12 hours following birth to check for congenital abnormalities.

### **Data analysis:**

### **Sample size calculation**

Assuming the anticipated population standard deviation to be 16.46, and applying t-distribution to predicted sample size, the study employed a sample size of 264. To estimate a mean with 95% confidence and a precision of 2.<sup>54</sup>

**Formula used :  $n = \frac{Z^2 S^2}{d^2}$**

Where Z= Z statistic at  $\alpha$  level of significance

d= Absolute error

**P= Proportion rate**

$$q = 100 - p$$

## **Statistical Analysis**

- The data obtained was entered in a Microsoft Excel sheet, and statistical analysis was estimated using a statistical package for the social sciences (Version 23).
- Results are presented as Mean (Median)  $\pm$ SD, counts and percentages and diagrams.
- Categorical variables are compared using the Chi-square test. Odd's ratio (95% CI) is applied.
- ROC curve analysis, Yuden Index, predictive values were calculated.
- $P < 0.05$  is considered statistically significant.

## **THE WORK FLOW OF THE STUDY**

Neonates admitted to NICU



Informed written consent was obtained from parent /attenders



Demographic details collected



History & Clinical assessment



Blood sampling and calculation of parameters



CRIB II scoring and SNAPPE II scoring



Additional laboratory investigations



Clinical outcome recorded (death / discharge)

## RESULT

A total of 324 neonates were recruited in the study. The average birth weight of newborns admitted to NICU was 1760+/- 140 grams and the average gestation age was 32+/- 1 week (Table 1a).

Gestational of the neonates were divided into three groups 26 – 28 weeks, >28 -32 weeks, >32 – 34 weeks. Among 283 survived neonates, maximum neonates was seen in groups between 28 – 32 (46.8%) weeks and 32 – 34(48.8%) weeks of gestation (Table 1b).

Neonates admitted in NICU were divided into 3 birthweight group. Among the 283 survived maximum survival was among LBW neonates (Table 1c).

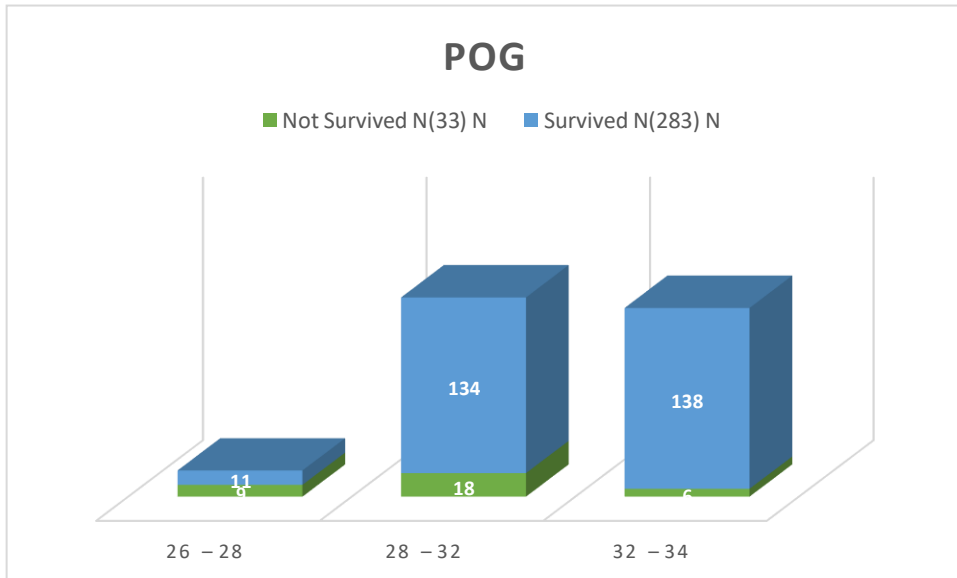
**Table 1a : Birthweight and Gestational age of neonates admitted to NICU**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Birth Weight	324	1757.08	1405.91
Gestation period	324	31.77	1.94

**Table 1 b: Gestation Age of neonates admitted to NICU**

POG	Not Survived (%) N (33)	Survived (%) N (283)
26 – 28	9 (27.3%)	11 (3.9%)
>28 – 32	18(54.5%)	134(46.8%)
>32 – 34	6(18.2%)	138(48.8%)

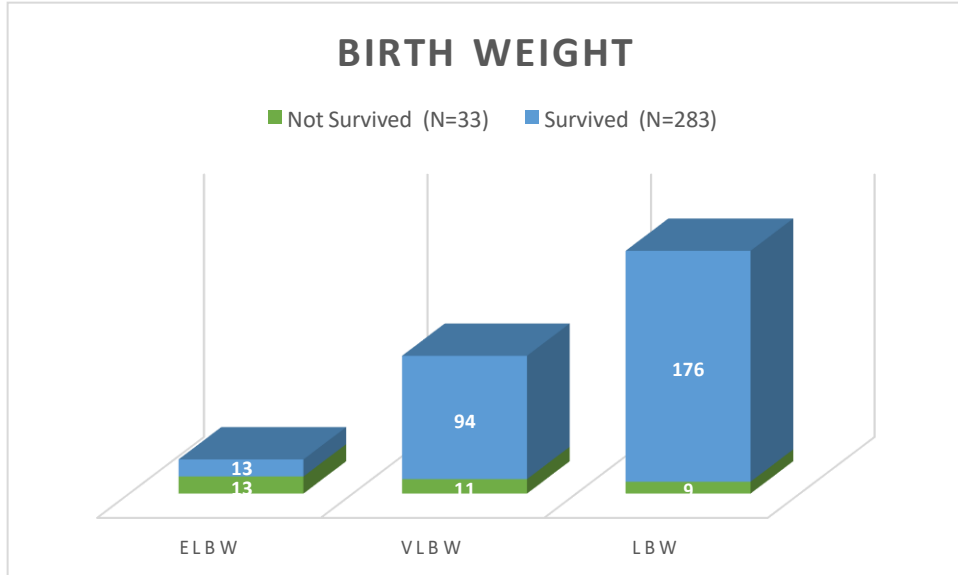
**Figure 11 : Gestation Age of neonates admitted to NICU**



**Table 1c : Birthweight of neonates admitted to NICU**

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Not Survived (%) (N=33)</b>	<b>Survived (%) (N=283)</b>
ELBW	13(39.3%)	13(4.6%)
VLBW	11(33.3%)	94(33.2%)
LBW	9(27.2%)	176(62.1%)

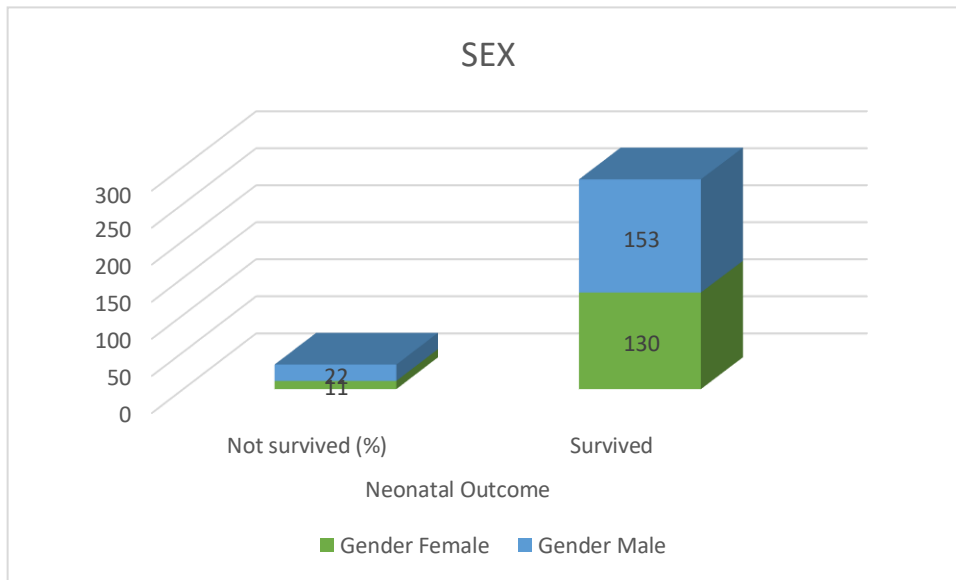
**Figure 11 b : Birthweight of neonates admitted to NICU**



**Table 1d : Sex distribution of Neonates admitted to NICU**

		Neonatal Outcome	
		Not survived (%) (N – 33)	Survived (%) (N=283)
Gender	Female	11 (33.4%)	130 (46.4%)
	Male	22(66.6%)	153(54%)

**Figure 11c : Sex distribution of the neonates admitted to NICU**

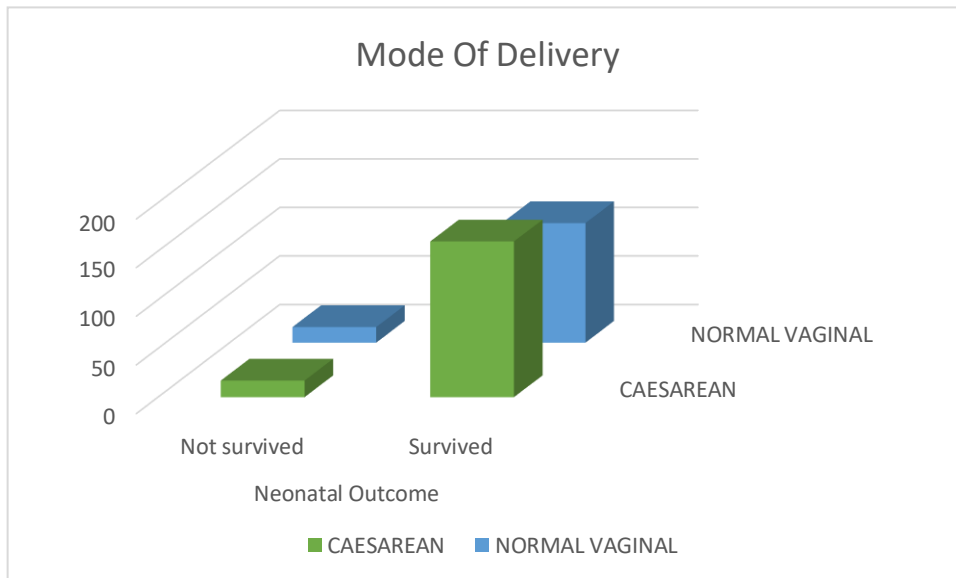




**Table 2 : Mode of Delivery**

		Neonatal Outcome		Total
		Not survived	Survived	
MODE OF DELIVERY	CAESAREAN	17	160	177
	NORMAL VAGINAL	16	123	139

**Figure 12 : Mode of delivery of the study group**



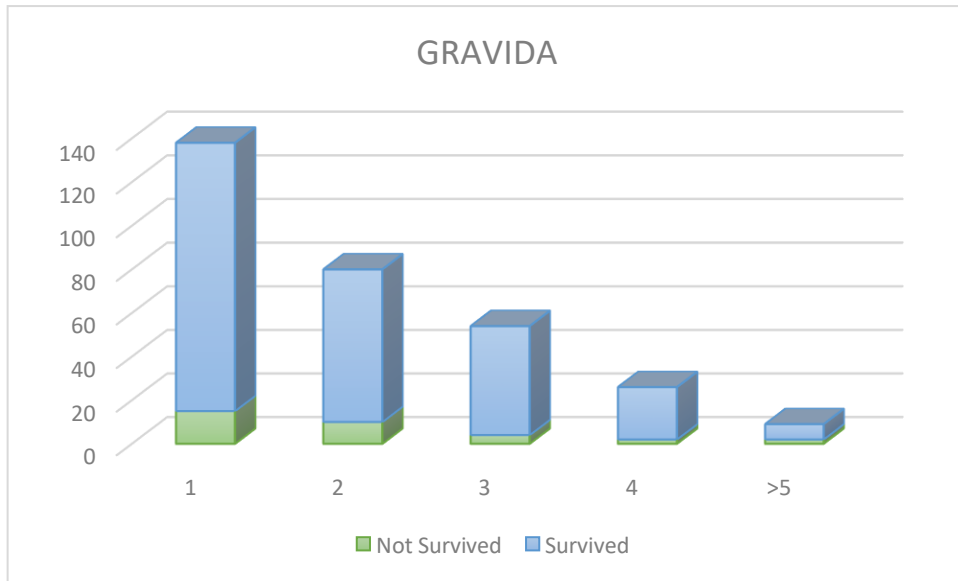
The various maternal factors influencing the neonatal outcomes are summarized from **Table 2 and Table 3**. There was no significant difference between the neonates who survived and those who did not survive with respect to baseline maternal factors (Obstetric score, Gestational Diabetes Mellitus, Premature Rupture of Membranes (PROM), Maternal Thrombocytopenia, Maternal Fever, Maternal H/o Urinary Tract Infection, Maternal H/o Vaginitis or the mode of delivery) except for maternal PIH (**Table 3**). Similar observations were noted when neonates were stratified by different weight groups [<1000g, 1000-1500g, 1500-2000g, 2000-2499g].

**Table 3: Baseline maternal factors between the neonatal groups**

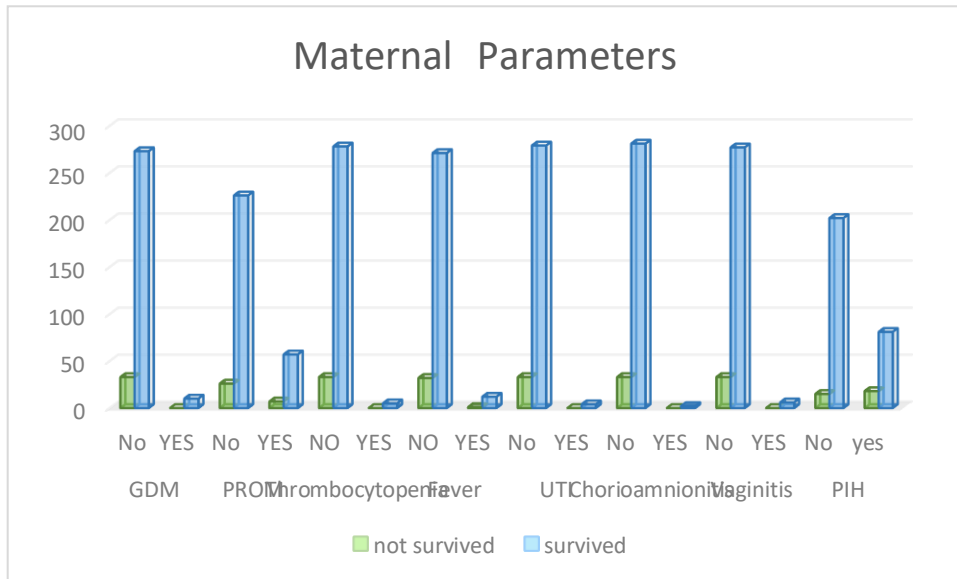
	Neonatal Outcome					P value
	Not Survived		Survived		P	
	Count	N %	Count	N %		
Gravida						
	->5	2	6.1%	7	2.5%	0.343
	1	15	45.5%	123	43.5%	0.528
	2	10	30.3%	70	24.7%	0.465
	3	4	12.1%	50	17.7%	0.312
	4	2	6.1%	24	8.5%	0.579
GDM status	No	33	100.0%	273	96.5%	0.607
	YES	0	0.0%	10	3.5%	
PROM status	No	26	78.8%	226	79.9%	0.822
	YES	7	21.2%	57	20.1%	
Maternal Thrombocytopenia	NO	33	100.0%	278	98.2%	0.974
	YES	0	0.0%	5	1.8%	
Maternal Fever	NO	32	97.0%	271	95.8%	1
	YES	1	3.0%	12	4.2%	
Maternal H/O UTI	No	33	100.0%	279	98.6%	0.902
	YES	0	0.0%	4	1.4%	
Maternal Chorioamnionitis	No	33	100.0%	281	99.3%	0.892
	YES	0	0.0%	2	.7%	
Maternal H/O Vaginitis	No	33	100.0%	277	97.9%	0.865

	YES	0	0.0%	6	2.1%	
PIH	No	15	45%	202	71%	<b>0.005</b>
	yes	18	55%	81	29%	

**Figure13a : Maternal gravida status in the study group**



**Figure 13b: Baseline maternal characteristics between neonatal group**



Amongst neonates in NICU the average scores of APGAR at 1 min and 5 min were 6 & 8 respectively, CRIB II score was 5.1 and SNAPPE score was 12.7 as shown in **Table 4**.

**Table 4: Summary Characteristics of neonates.**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	324	6.694	.9777
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	324	8.648	.6534
SNAPPE – II	324	12.975	8.9442
CRIB – II	324	5.105	2.7465

**Table 5** compares the important neonatal variable like birth weight, gestation period, APGAR score 1 and 5 minute, between those neonates who survived compared to those who didn't (**6.8 vs 5.9 & 8.7 vs 8.2**). The MAP recorded differed significantly between the two groups.

**Table 5: Comparison of various neonatal variables between the two groups**

	Neonatal outcomes						
	Not Survived			Survived			P Value
	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	
Birth Weight (grams)	1213.91	33.00	392.89	1830.48	283.00	1483.43	0.018
Gestation period	30.00	33.00	2.32	31.99	283.00	1.80	<0.001
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	5.91	33.00	1.23	6.79	283.00	.90	<0.001
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	8.27	33.00	.88	8.70	283.00	.60	<0.001
Blood pressure*(MAP)	31.45	33.00	2.40	33.10	283.00	2.07	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
Urine output	5.92	33.00	29.46	2.77	283.00	15.56	0.550
Body Temperature	34.63	33.00	1.24	35.24	283.00	4.37	0.071

**Table 6a : Comparison of birthweight between different groups**

Weight		N	Mean	Std Deviation	P
ELBW	NS	13	883	140	0.126
	S	13	1023	279	
VLBW	NS	12	1258	220	0.255
	S	89	1415	1146	
LBW	NS	9	1910	1861	<b>0.038</b>
	S	176	1980	1753	

**Table 6b: Comparison of POG between different groups**

POG (weeks)		N	Mean	Std Deviation	P
26 – 28	NS	9	27.22	0.972	0.539
	S	11	27.45	0.688	
>28-32	NS	18	30.22	1.06	0.041
	S	134	30.80	1.01	
>32 - 34	NS	6	33.50	0.548	0.952
	S	138	33.51	0.502	

Neonates in LBW group had statistically significant difference between survived and not survived neonates in the study group (Table 6a)

In the study group 28 – 32 weeks neonates had better survival then 26 – 28 weeks. Statistically significant p value was seen in 28 – 32 weeks neonates in comparison to 32 -34 weeks neonates.(Table 6b)



**Table 6c : Outcome of neonates by gender**

Gender		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P
SNAPPE II	Female	144	13.0	9.1	0.975
	Male	180	13.0	8.9	
CRIB II	Female	144	4.9	2.3	0.165
	Male	180	5.3	3.0	

With regard to scoring systems for the neonates admitted to NICU **Table 6c, 7** presents the CRIB II score and SNAPPE II score of the neonates who did not survive and who survived. As can be seen from the table the scores were significantly differed between the two groups. Table 5c showed no difference outcome between male and female sex. The average CRIB II score in those who survived was **4.8** ( vs not survived **7.2**) The average SNAPPE II score in those who survived was **11.2** (vs not survived **25.4**).

**Table 7 : Comparison of CRIB II and SNAPPEII scores between the two groups**

	Neonatal Outcome						
	Not survived			Survived			P Values
	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	
SNAPPE II*	25.4	33.0	9.2	11.2	283.0	7.4	<0.0001
CRIB II*	7.2	33.0	3.5	4.8	283.0	2.6	<0.0001

\*p&lt;0.0001

There was no significant difference between the two groups with respect to other parameters pH, pO<sub>2</sub>, pCO<sub>2</sub>, bicarbonate levels, White blood cells, platelets, urine output and use of an inotrope (**Table 8**). However base excess values differed significantly between the groups. The results of various neonatal and maternal factors between the two groups were similar to the tables above when stratified by different weights.

**Table 8 Comparisons of clinical and laboratory parameters between the two groups**

Parameters							P value
	Not survived			Survived			
	Mean	N	SD	Mean	N	SD	
White Blood Cells	10937.9	33.0	6414.6	11608.0	283.0	7668.4	0.581
Platelets	211884.4	32.0	87792.4	249862.5	283.0	149138.2	0.159
pH	7.3	33.0	.1	7.8	283.0	5.6	0.101
pCO <sub>2</sub>	32.1	33.0	13.3	32.0	283.0	23.1	0.955
pO <sub>2</sub>	138.5	33.0	48.0	130.9	283.0	41.7	0.389
HCO <sub>3</sub>	13.8	33.0	3.8	16.2	283.0	11.7	0.247
Lactate	9.6	33.0	29.2	4.5	283.0	3.3	0.451
Base excess*	10.2	33.0	4.0	8.2	283.0	4.3	<b>0.010</b>
NPO	41.5	33.0	19.7	45.4	283.0	23.2	0.210

### **Comparison between groups following Stratification by birthweight**

The neonatal factors birthweight, gestation, APGAR scores (1 & 5 min), CRIB II and SNAPPE II were compared between the two groups stratified by different categories of birth weight. Category A <1000g, Category B – 1001-1500g, Category C-1501-2000g and Category D- 2001 -2499g.

Table 9A compares the scores in those neonates who weighed <1000 g. SNAPPE II scores differed significantly between the two groups. For other scores there was no significant difference between those who survived vs those who didn't. Table 9 B depicts the scores in those neonates weighing 1001-1500g. Again, the only score to differ between the groups was SNAPPE - II while rest all the scores were not statistically significant between the two groups. Table 9C shows the scores of neonates weighing 1501-2000g. SNAPPE - II differed between the two groups (p=0.012) while other scores did show any statistically significant difference between the groups. For neonates weighing 2001-2499g none of the scores differed between the groups.

**Table 9 A: Comparison of scores for Birth weight <1000grams.**

Out come status		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Birthweight	Not Survived	13	883.615	140.3624	0.126
	Survived	13	1022.923	279.1235	
Gestation period	Not Survived	13	28.77	2.088	0.514
	Survived	13	28.69	1.750	
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	Not Survived	13	5.846	1.1435	0.417
	Survived	13	6.462	.7763	
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	Not Survived	13	8.077	.9541	0.184
	Survived	13	8.538	.6602	
SNAPPE II*	Not Survived	13	31.385	5.6795	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	Survived	13	16.846	6.6061	
CRIB II	Not Survived	13	9.462	3.2046	0.503
	Survived	13	8.769	1.7867	

\* p&lt;0.0001

**Table 9 B: Comparison of scores for Birth weight = 1001 to 1500grams.**

Out come status		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Birthweight (grams)	Not Survived	12	1258.667	220.6920	0.255
	Survived	89	1415.933	1146.0994	
Gestation period	Not Survived	12	29.42	1.379	<b>0.004</b>
	Survived	89	30.89	1.563	
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	Not Survived	12	6.000	.9535	0.08
	Survived	89	6.551	.9172	
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	Not Survived	12	8.417	.6686	0.09
	Survived	89	8.528	.6923	
SNAPPE II*	Not Survived	12	23.250	8.9048	<b>0.002</b>
	Survived	89	12.798	8.2987	
CRIB II	Not Survived	12	7.083	2.8110	0.162
	Survived	89	5.809	2.8118	

\* p&lt;0.0001

**Table 9 C: Comparison of scores for Birth weight = 1501 to 2000grams.**

Out come status		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Birthweight (grams)	Not Survived	7	1566.857	182.1789	0.559
	Survived	112	1891.214	1456.2790	
Gestation period	Not Survived	7	32.71	1.113	0.600
	Survived	112	32.47	1.329	
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	Not Survived	7	5.857	1.9518	0.188
	Survived	112	6.955	.7400	
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	Not Survived	7	8.429	1.1339	0.407
	Survived	112	8.813	.4938	
SNAPPE II*	Not Survived	7	17.143	8.0711	<b>0.012</b>
	Survived	112	10.455	6.6304	
CRIB II	Not Survived	7	3.714	1.6036	0.567
	Survived	112	4.196	2.1803	

\* p&lt;0.05

**Table 9 D: Comparison of scores for Birthweight = 2001 to 2499 grams .**

Out come status		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Birthweight (grams)	Not Survived	1	2500.000		0.973
	Survived	64	2435.063	1867.7631	
Gestation period	Not Survived	1	34.00		0.514
	Survived	64	33.30	1.064	
APGAR SCORE : 1 minute	Not Survived	1	6.000		0.417
	Survived	64	6.875	1.0616	
APGAR SCORE : 5 minute	Not Survived	1	8.000		0.184
	Survived	64	8.781	.5765	
SNAPPE II	Not Survived	1	31.000		<b>0.002</b>
	Survived	64	9.063	6.8264	
CRIB II	Not Survived	1	5.000		0.510
	Survived	64	3.859	1.7078	

**P value : < 0.05**



### Gestation Age, Birth Weight as a predictor of mortality

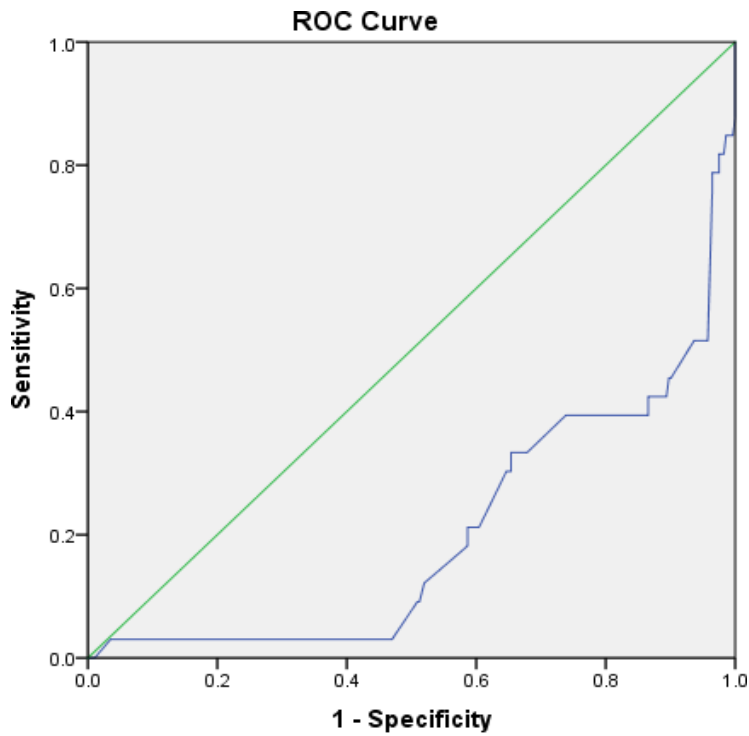
Considering the study population birthweight and gestational age individually were poor predictor of mortality (AUC 0.2 & 0.25 respectively). The lower limit of the confidence interval for the both parameters is around 0.1 signifying poor predictive ability of these parameters.

(Tables 10 & 11, Figures 1 & 2)

**Table 10: Area Under the Curve – Birth Weight**

Test Variable(s):	Result	Birth Weight		
Area		Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Asymptotic Confidence Interval	95%
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
.201		.042	.119	.283

**Figure 14 – ROC Curve – Birth Weight**



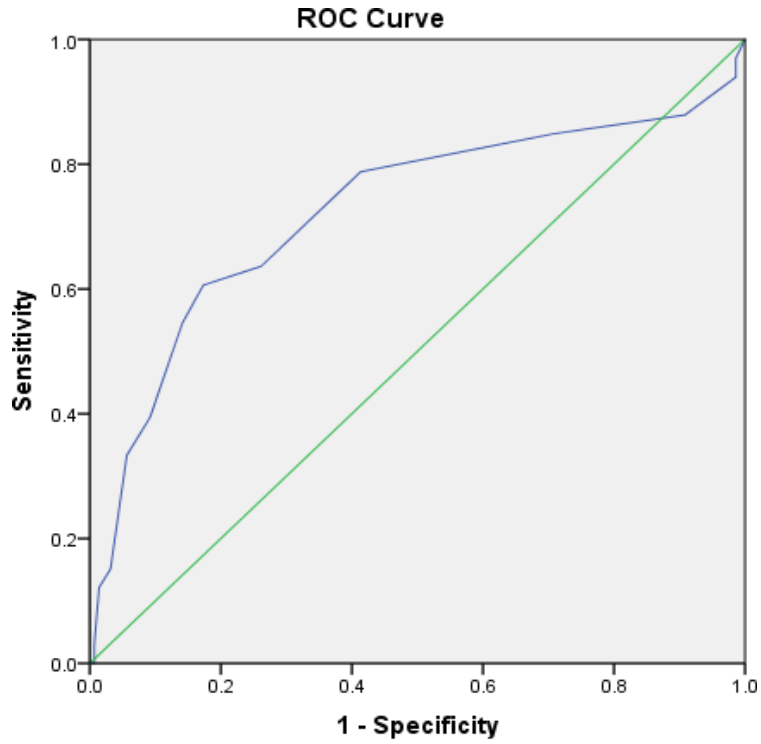
Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

AUC:0.201

**Table 11: Area Under Curve - Gestation**

Test	Result	Gestation period		
Variable(s):				
Area	Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval		
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
		.156	.350	
.253	.049			

**Figure 15: ROC Curve - Gestation**



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

AUC :0.253

## CRIB – Predictor of Mortality

The CRIB score of the newborns that did not survive varied from 0 to 13, presenting an average score of  $7.2 \pm 3.4$ . The score of those that survived varied from 0 to 20, with an average of  $4.8 \pm 2.5$ . The difference between these scores was not statistically significant ( $p=0.69$ ). Though the AUC for predicting mortality is 0.72 but the value of lower bound of the AUC is 0.61 implying poor predictive ability. The results stratified by birth weight categories are presented in the subsequent pages. The **table 12A & figure 16** shows that a cut off  $> 5.5$  has 64% sensitivity and 74% specificity in predicting mortality.

**Table 12: Area Under Curve – CRIB II**

Test Result Variable(s):	CRIB 2		
Area	Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
.725	.057	.614	.836

**Table 12 A: Coordinates of the Curve**

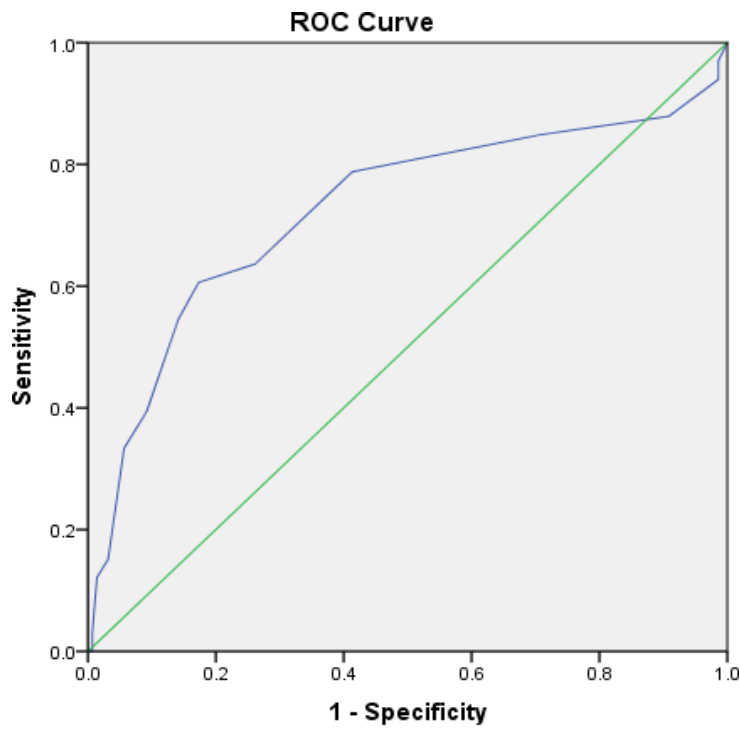
Test Result Variable(s):

Positive if Greater Than or Equal To <sup>a</sup>	Sensitivity	1 - Specificity
-1.000	1.000	1.000
.500	.970	.986
1.500	.939	.986
2.500	.879	.908
3.500	.848	.707
4.500	.788	.413

5.500	.636	.261
6.500	.606	.173
7.500	.545	.141
8.500	.394	.092
9.500	.333	.057
10.500	.152	.032
11.500	.121	.014
12.500	.030	.007
16.500	0.000	.007
21.000	0.000	0.000

The test result variable(s): CRIB II

**Figure 16: ROC Curve – CRIB II**



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

**AUC 0.725**

## SNAPPE II as a predictor of mortality

The neonates that did not survive had SNAPPE II scores ranging from 5 to 45, with an average score of  $25 \pm 9$ . The score of those that survived varied from 0 to 32, with an average of  $11 \pm 7$ . The difference between these scores was statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). Though the AUC for predicting mortality is 0.88 and width of the Confidence limits are narrow implying good predictive ability. The results stratified by birth weight categories are presented in the subsequent pages. The **table 13A & figure 17** shows that a cut off 17.5 and above has **78% sensitivity and 82% specificity** in predicting mortality in neonates born before the age of 34 weeks irrespective of birthweight status.

**Table 13: Area Under Curve – SNAPPE II**

Area	Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval	
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound
.879	.034	.813	.946

**Table 13 A: Coordinates of the Curve**

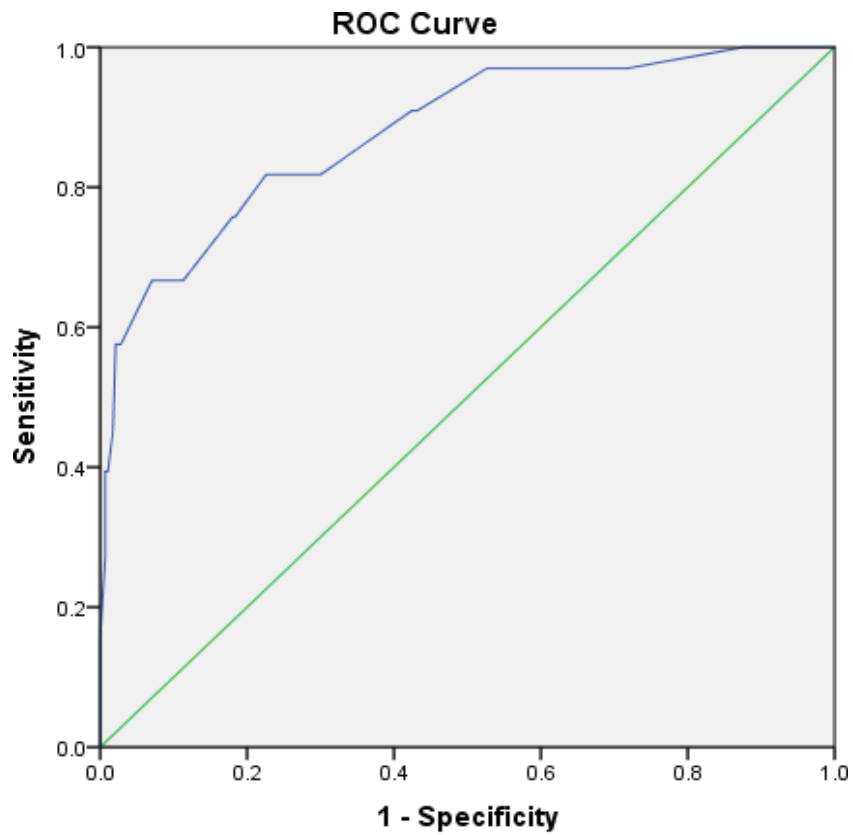
Test Result Variable(s):

Positive if Greater Than or Equal To <sup>a</sup>	Sensitivity	1 - Specificity
-1.000	1.000	1.000
1.000	1.000	.890
2.500	1.000	.887
3.500	1.000	.880
4.500	1.000	.876
5.500	.970	.717
6.500	.970	.707

7.500	.970	.693
8.500	.970	.565
9.500	.970	.527
11.000	.909	.431
12.500	.909	.424
14.000	.818	.300
15.500	.818	.251
16.500	.818	.237
17.500	.818	.226
18.500	.758	.184
19.500	.758	.180
20.500	.667	.113
22.000	.667	.106
23.500	.667	.074
24.500	.667	.071
25.500	.576	.028
26.500	.576	.021
27.500	.455	.018
28.500	.394	.011
29.500	.394	.007
30.500	.364	.007
31.500	.273	.007
33.000	.152	0.000
35.000	.121	0.000
36.500	.061	0.000
41.000	.030	0.000
46.000	0.000	0.000

The test result variable(s): SNAPPE  
 II has at least one tie between the  
 positive actual state group and the  
 negative actual state group.

**Figure 17: ROC Curve – SNAPPE II**



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

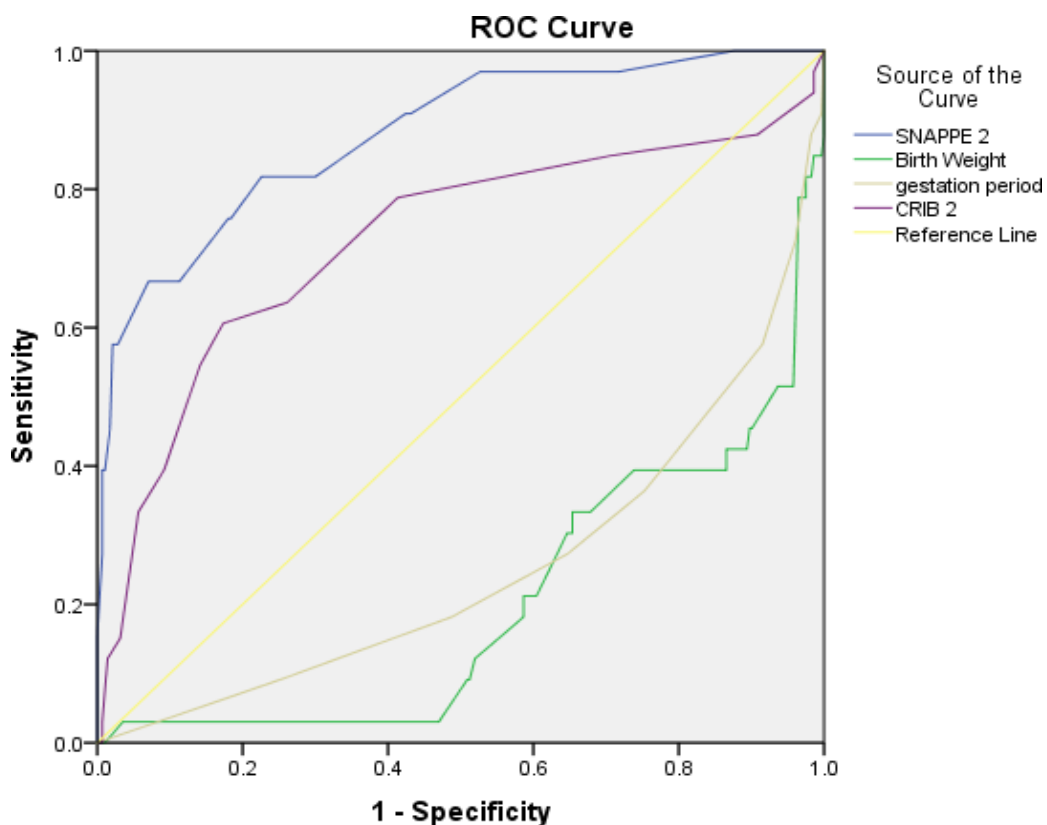
**AUC :0.879**



### Comparing Gestation age, Birth weight, CRIB II and SNAPPE II.

The scoring systems and other factors are analysed using ROC curves.(figure 18). With a significant difference in AUCs, SNAPPE II had a higher AUC for predicting mortality than CRIB-II: 0.88 (95% confidence interval CI: 0.82 - 0.95) vs. 0.7 (95%. CI : 0.62. - 0.8). Better discriminatory ability was enabled by the SNAPPE II grading system. (Figure 18 ).

**Figure 18: ROC Comparing all the parameters in the whole study population**



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

## **Predictive role of Scoring systems in different weight categories**

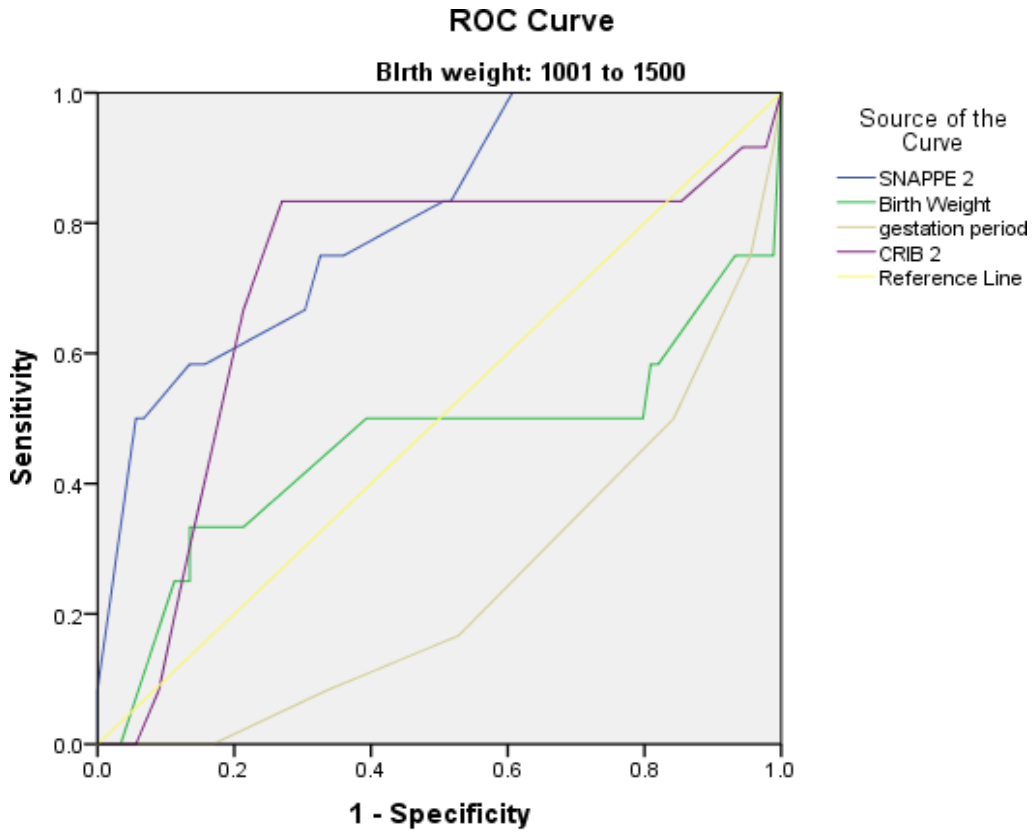
### **Very low birth neonates**

When compared to CRIB-II, SNAPPE II showed a higher AUC in very low birth neonates, with a significant difference between the two AUCs of 0.8 (95% confidence interval CI: 0.68-0.93) vs. 0.7 (95% confidence interval CI: 0.5-0.8). SNAPPE II scoring system had better discriminatory ability (**Table 14 & Figure 19**). A close look on coordinates from **table 14A & figure 19** shows that a CRIB II cut off score of **6.5** and above has **83% sensitivity and 73% specificity** in predicting mortality. While SNAP PE II cut off score of **17.5** and above has **75% sensitivity and 68%** specificity in predicting mortality in very low birth infants. As can be seen from the figure 6 both the gestation age and birth weight were poor predictors of mortality in sub group of neonates .

**Table 14: Area Under the Curve- (1001g- 1500g) SNAPPE II, Birth Weight, Gestation period, CRIB II**

Test Result Variable(s)	Area	Std. Error <sup>b</sup>	Asymptotic Sig. <sup>c</sup>	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
SNAPPE II	.805	.065	.001	.677	.933
Birth Weight	.458	.115	.640	.232	.684
Gestation period	.245	.072	.004	.105	.385
CRIB II	.708	.091	.020	.531	.886

**Figure 19: ROC Curve all the parameter in very low birth neonates.**



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

**Table 14 A: Coordinates of the Curve<sup>a</sup>**

Test Result Variable(s)	Positive if Greater Than or Equal To <sup>b</sup>	Sensitivity	1 - Specificity
SNAPPE II	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	1.000	1.000	.899
	2.500	1.000	.888
	4.000	1.000	.876
	5.500	1.000	.787
	6.500	1.000	.764
	7.500	1.000	.742
	8.500	1.000	.618
	9.500	1.000	.607
	11.000	.833	.517
	12.500	.833	.506
	14.000	.750	.360
	16.000	.750	.337

	17.500	.750	.326
	19.000	.667	.303
	20.500	.583	.157
	22.000	.583	.146
	24.000	.583	.135
	25.500	.500	.067
	26.500	.500	.056
	27.500	.417	.045
	30.000	.250	.022
	34.000	.083	0.000
	37.000	0.000	0.000
Birth Weight	999.000	1.000	1.000
	1026.500	.750	.989
	1056.500	.750	.978
	1062.000	.750	.966
	1067.000	.750	.955
	1075.000	.750	.944
	1090.000	.750	.933
	1105.000	.583	.820
	1115.000	.583	.809
	1130.000	.500	.798
	1145.000	.500	.775
	1155.000	.500	.753
	1165.000	.500	.719
	1185.000	.500	.697
	1219.500	.500	.596
	1239.500	.500	.584
	1270.000	.500	.573
	1310.000	.500	.483
	1335.000	.500	.472
	1355.000	.500	.438
	1375.000	.500	.427
	1392.500	.500	.404
	1397.500	.500	.393
	1407.000	.333	.213
	1424.500	.333	.202
	1442.500	.333	.191
	1455.000	.333	.157
	1472.000	.333	.135
	1487.000	.250	.135
	1495.000	.250	.112
	1538.000	0.000	.034
	1738.000	0.000	.022
	6951.000	0.000	.011
12003.000	0.000	0.000	
Gestation period	26.00	1.000	1.000
	27.50	.917	.989
	28.50	.750	.955

	29.50	.500	.843
	30.50	.167	.528
	31.50	.083	.337
	32.50	0.000	.169
	33.50	0.000	.067
	35.00	0.000	0.000
CRIB II	-1.000	1.000	1.000
	1.000	.917	.978
	2.500	.917	.944
	3.500	.833	.854
	4.500	.833	.685
	5.500	.833	.494
	6.500	.833	.270
	7.500	.667	.213
	8.500	.250	.124
	9.500	.083	.090
	10.500	0.000	.056
	11.500	0.000	.034
	16.000	0.000	.011
	21.000	0.000	0.000

The test result variable(s): SNAPPE II, Birth Weight, gestation period , CRIB II has at least one tie between the positive actual state group and the negative actual state group.<sup>a</sup>

a. Birth weight = 1001 to 1500g

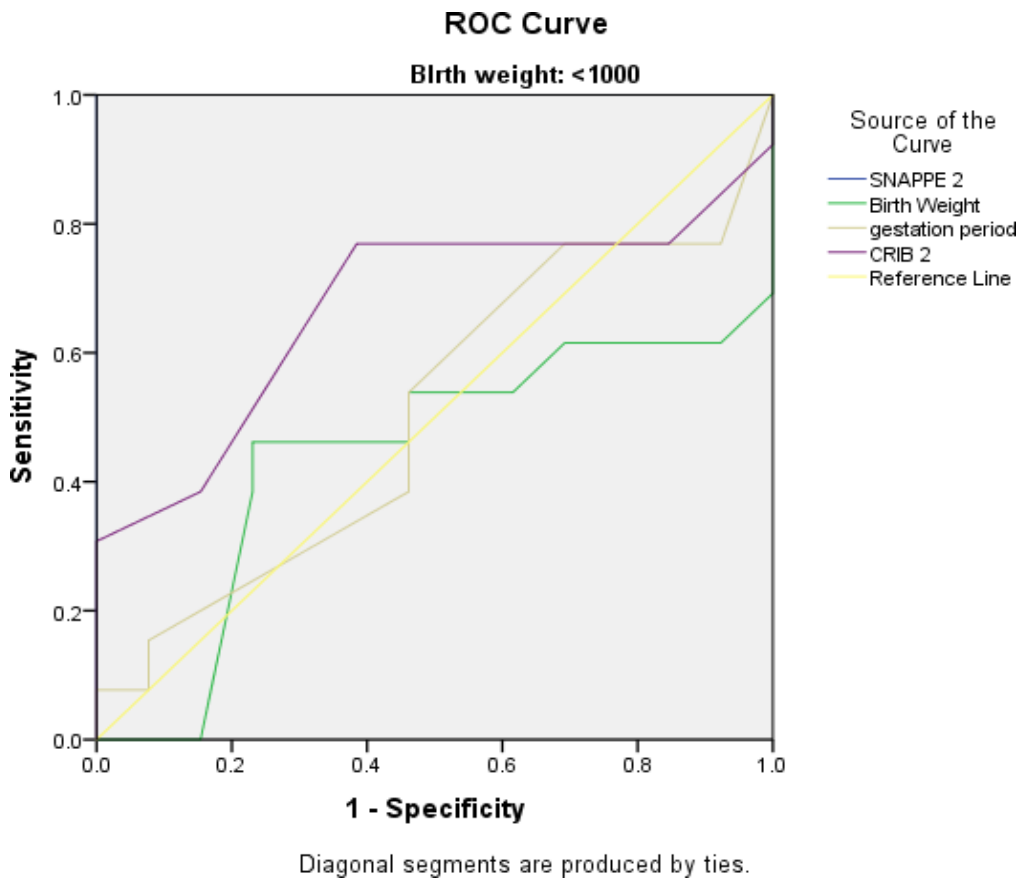
### Extremely low birth weight neonate

In extremely low birth neonates only CRIB II had higher AUC compared with other parameters AUC: 0.6 (95% confidence interval CI: 0.45–0.89) having significant difference between AUCs. A close look on coordinates from **table 15 & figure 20** shows that a CRIB II cut off score of 9.5 and above has 77% sensitivity and 62% specificity in predicting mortality. As can be seen from the figure 7 both the gestation age and birthweight were poor predictors of mortality in sub group of neonates.

**Table 15 : Area Under the Curve - (<1000g)SNAPPE II, Birth Weight, Gestation period, CRIB II.**

Test Result Variable(s)	Area	Std. Error <sup>b</sup>	Asymptotic Sig. <sup>c</sup>	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
SNAPPE II	1.000	0.000	.000	1.000	1.000
Birth Weight	.441	.120	.608	.205	.677
Gestation period	.506	.117	.959	.277	.735
CRIB II	.672	.113	.137	.450	.893

**Figure 20: ROC curve all the parameters in extremely low birth weight neonates**





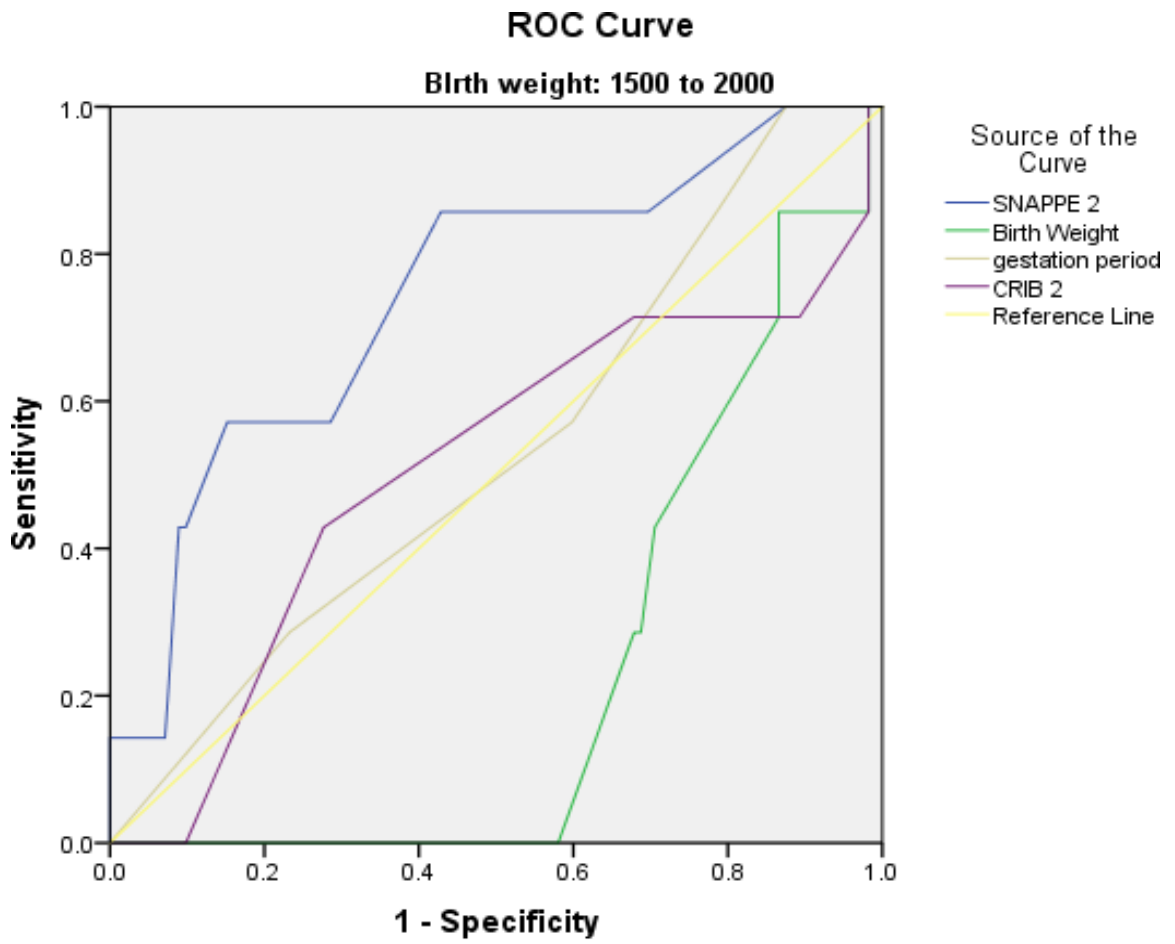
### Low birth weight neonates

For predicting mortality in low birthweight neonates SNAPPE II Scores provided better information compared to other parameters. (AUC – 0.75, CI: 0.5 to 0.90). The other parameters did not predict well. As can be seen from Figure 21, a SNAPPE II score of 11.5 resulted in a sensitivity of 85% and a specificity of 58%.

**Table 16 : Area Under the Curve-(1501g- 2000g)SNAPPE II, Birth Weight, Gestation period, CRIB II.**

Test Result Variable(s)	Area	Std. Error	Asymptotic Sig.	Asymptotic 95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
SNAPPE II	.745	.099	.030	.551	.939
Birthweight	.232	.057	.018	.121	.343
Gestation period	.532	.108	.778	.321	.743
CRIB II	.509	.127	.937	.260	.757

Figure 21 : ROC curve all the parameters in low birth weight neonates (1501-20



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

**Table 17 : Comparison of Gestational age between CRIB II and SNAPPE II**

POG	CRIB II			SNAPPE II		
Weeks	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity
26 – 28	0.540	44%	64%	0.798	66%	<b>95%</b>
28 – 32	0.737	61%	<b>80%</b>	0.854	78%	<b>79%</b>
32 – 34	0.679	<b>80%</b>	<b>40%</b>	0.894	66%	<b>90%</b>

CRIB II score had good predictive ability for neonates with gestation age of 28 – 32 weeks with specificity of 80%, neonates with 32 -34 weeks had 80% sensitivity but specificity was 40% ; only as there is no standardized scoring system for neonates above 32 weeks in CRIB II scoring system.

SNAPPE II score had good predictive ability for neonates in all three subgroups. Sensitivity and specificity for 26 - 28 weeks was 66% and 95% , 28 -32 weeks 78% and 79% ,32 -34 weeks 66% and 90% respectively. Implying SNAPPE II had good predictivity in all preterm neonate category in the study.

**Table 18 : Comparison on birth weight between CRIB II and SNAPPE II**

Weight	CRIB II			SNAPPE II		
	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity
ELBW	0.672	76%	62%	0.95	84%	<b>95%</b>
VLBW	0.708	66%	79%	0.805	75%	68%
LBW	0.509	72%	34%	0.745	85%	58%

Comparison of the two score CRIB II and SNAPPEII among birthweight categories showed good sensitivity and specificity in both the groups for ELBW (76%,62%) vs (84%,95%), VLBW (66% ,79%) vs (75%,68%) respectively, whereas in LBW neonates CRIB II sensitivity was 72% but specificity was low 34% but SNAPPE II had comparatively good sensitivity and specificity for this group of neonates too i.e 85% and 58% respectively.

## DISCUSSION

The study evaluated predictive role of scorings systems CRIB-II and SNAP PE II in 324 pre term infants at tertiary care hospital from South India with a special focus on very low birthweight neonates.

The mean SNAP PE II scores were significantly higher in neonates who expired compared to those who survived (25.4 vs 11.2). The SNAP PE II score was noted to be high in neonates who died in Category B (BW 1001 to 1500g) and Category C (BW 1501 to 2000g) but not in Category A (BW) < 1000g) & Category D (BW 2001 to 2499g) which we attribute to the small number of neonates included from this group. Analysis of the ROC curve for SNAPPE II showed an area under the curve with moderate values for Category B (**Table 14, AUC - 0.8**).

The CRIB II scoring also showed a significant predictive ability only in Category B (BW < 1000g) [**Table 14, AUC -0.7**] and was not significant in other weight groups. In the ELBW neonates CRIB II was only scoring parameter which performed better compared to other variables (**Table 15, AUC – 0.67**)

The score had superior discriminatory capacity than birthweight alone ( $Az = 0.78$ ) in the original study that led to the establishment of CRIB (area under the ROC curve:  $Az = 0.90$ ).<sup>27</sup> In comparison the present study reports lower discriminatory ability for CRIB II scoring in both very low birthweight neonates and pre term neonates . The possible explanation could be lesser number of neonates included from that extremely low birth weight category. The simplicity of CRIB's data collection is a major benefit, as each neonate's calculation only takes five minutes, as opposed to 20- or 30-minute calculations for some of the more difficult scores, such SNAP, SNAP-PE..<sup>5</sup>

Problems like Fio2 use and data collection upto 12 hours of admission were avoided in CRIB II. Dalili et al assessed CRIB II and SNAP PE II for predicting mortality in preterm (<32 weeks) or low birthweight neonates (<1500 g) admitted to NICU in Iran and reported a cut-off of 27.5 for SNAPPE II with sensitivity and specificity of 84% and 79% respectively and reported accuracy of 0.887 (CI 95%:0.847- 0.927) (P<0.05). In contrast the present study includes all newborns below the gestational age of 34 weeks.

The cut off obtained in the present study for SNAPPE II is also lower (17.5) and sensitivity and specificity being 78% and 82% respectively (Table 14 A) while the values reported for sensitivity and specificity by Dalili et Both are 79.05% (CI 95%: 79.051-79.052) and 84.44% (CI 95%: 84.443-84.445) with a cut-off point of 27.5, respectively. Additionally, at the cut-off point of 29 +/- 5, these similar values were 82.22% (CI 95%: 82.222 - 82.223) and 81.42% (CI 95%: 81.422 - 8.423). The same study reported a cut off point of 8.5 for CRIB II system with a sensitivity and specificity of 74.4% and 78.65% respectively. In comparison our study has reported a CRIB cut off value of 6.5 with 64% sensitivity and 74% specificity.

In Richardson's et al comparison, SNAP predicted death better than birth weight alone (Az 0.87 v 0.77), and SNAP-PE was even better (Az 0.93).<sup>30</sup> In comparison the AUC obtained in the present study are on lower range.

## Comparison with other studies

Thimoty *et al* evaluated SNAPPE II as the predictor of neonatal mortality in NICU at a general hospital Indonesia reported a good correlation between SNAPPE II and mortality and suggested a cut-off of 51. This cut off seems several times higher than the cut off obtained in the current study (17.5). The AUC reported in that study was ( 0.933, 95% CI- 0.843-1) was high compared to our study.

Our study is similar to a study done in Nepal by Muktan et al where SNAPPE-II score validity as neonatal mortality predictor and length of stay in NICU was evaluated. It was found that the cut-off score 38 for predicting mortality, sensitivity 84.4% and specificity 91%<sup>9</sup>. In comparison to the newborns that survived, the babies who died had significantly higher median (IQR) SNAP PE II scores [57 (42 - 64) vs. 22 (14 - 32), P 0.001]. The ROC curve's area under the curve (AUC) was 0.917 (95% CI: 0.854-0.980). The best cut off SNAPPE-II score in predicting overall mortality was 38. Sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive value of score  $\geq 38$  in estimating overall mortality were 84.4, 91, 66.7 and 96.5% respectively. Though the cut offs are slightly higher implication is similar to our study.

A prospective study by Eldin from Egypt reported with a cut-off point of 11, the CRIB II score is a reliable measure for LBW risk assessment initially and had good specificity (82.4%) and high sensitivity (94.9%)<sup>7</sup>. Additionally, ROC curve analysis showed that the optimal cut-off for predicting death were 11 for CRIB II score, 28 for gestational age, and 1100 for birthweight. These values had the best sensitivity and specificity. While the age and gestation were poor predictors of mortality in our study the cut off value for CRIB II was **6.5**. Our findings are in agreement with Eldin et al. study results , who observed that the CRIB II score had the best accuracy for extremely low birth children (86.7%).

The SNAPPE II scoring results obtained in our study are similar to a multicentric study in the Indian population by Vardhelli *et al* who compared SNAP PE II score and CRIB-II score in neonate illness severity scores assessment for mortality and morbidity prediction in neonates with gestational age of  $\leq 32$  weeks and found good predictive ability for in hospital mortality with SNAPPE-II (AUC: 0.78)<sup>39</sup>. In contrast our study did not find significant predictive ability for CRIB II for pre term as a whole. Unlike study by Vardhelli we found dissimilar AUC with CRIB-II and SNAPPE-II. Our observations are in agreement with the results of a study by Eldin *et al.*, who observed that the CRIB II score had the best accuracy (the percentage of true results, including true positives and true negatives) for extremely low birth children (86.7%).

In a study conducted by Harsha and Archana SNAPPE-II score of 37 or higher was associated with an increased death rate, which is once more higher than what our study<sup>8</sup> reported. However, unlike Harsha's study, our attention was limited to only preterm infants. They claimed that, regardless of gestational ages, SNAPPE-II demonstrated a good connection with outcomes in terms of mortality. In this study, increased mortality was linked to SNAPPE-II scores of 37 and above.

Gagliardi *et al* evaluated the propensity for CRIB, CRIB-II, and SNAPPE-II to predict in-hospital mortality in a cohort of VLBW neonates admitted to 12 NICUs taking part in a regional area in Italy between 1999 and 2001, and found that CRIB and CRIB-II exhibited more discrimination than SNAPPE-II (AUC 0.90 and 0.91 vs 0.84,)<sup>6</sup>. However, these figures are before the advent of ante natal steroids and surfactants. So retrospective AUC comparison may not be appropriate. Unlike their study we did not find any association between caesarean section and survival.

SNAPPE (devised and primarily used in the United States and Canada) is used in neonates of all birth weight and all GA, whereas CRIB II (designed in the United Kingdom and



mainly employed in Europe) can only be applied to VLBWI. The practice is heterogenous in the Indian setting with several scores being used.

There could be several reasons for the different cut off, AUC, sensitivity and specificity values compared to other studies. The sample had a relatively less number of children below 1000 g. Accordingly the results of scoring systems obtained from this category could only be an estimate.

## **Strengths**

The study is conducted in large group of pre term infants (324). Other studies which have evaluated scoring system from developing countries have been conducted smaller group of children.

There is some uncertainty with the regard to the application of CRIB II scoring in different classes of low birthweight patients. The current study found significant application for CRIB -II scoring only in the category B (BW- 1000- 1500) but not in other groups. Whereas SNAPPE II system can be applied in all the age groups except Category A (BW< 1000).

## **Limitations**

The number of infants in some of the weight categories (Extremely low birth weight) were relatively less in comparison to other weight categories. The actual outcomes (death and survival) were again few in some of the sub groups. This could be because of a higher quality of care being provided so that lesser number of infants are dying.

## **Implications**

The study of scoring system has to be evaluated based on the clinical profile of neonates and in a different resource setting. This may facilitate prioritising neonates with illnesses and providing their parents with information about the severity of their conditions. The validity of scoring systems furthers helps in planning NICU manpower, training, optimizing the utilizations of resources.

# SUMMARY

- In the study population of 324 neonates, the average birth weight of neonates admitted to the NICU was 1760 grams and the gestation period was 32 weeks. Between groups that survived and those that did not, there was no significant difference in terms of baseline maternal characteristics except that pregnancy-induced hypertension had significant value among the maternal complications.
- Blood pressure recording among the neonates had significant differences among the two groups compared to other base neonatal variables.
- Base excess values differed between the two groups compared to laboratory parameters between the two groups of neonates.
- Among neonates admitted in our NICU, mean CRIB II - 5.1 and SNAPPE II -12.7. The score in neonates who survived was 4.8 in CRIB II and 11.2 in SNAPPE II.
- CRIB II and SNAPPE II scores on application to different birthweight showed a significant difference between the groups. SNAPPE was more reliable without any distinction between survived and not survived neonates.
- Individually birth weight and gestational age are poor mortality predictors.
- SNAPPE II score had a better predictive potential of mortality among neonates born before 34 weeks, irrespective of the birth weight.
- SNAPPE II has better predictivity of mortality among neonates admitted to NICU in terms of both birth weight and gestational age considered.
- SNAPPE II score differed significantly from the CRIB II score in neonates more than 2000g and more than 32 weeks of gestation.

- CRIB 2 scoring system had good predictivity for neonates between 28 - 32 weeks with a sensitivity of 61%, specificity of 80% and for less than 1500 grams as 66% sensitivity and 79% specificity.
- SNAPPE II had better sensitivity and specificity for neonates till 34 weeks of gestation and 2500 grams.
- SNAPPE II predictive scores for extreme preterm were better than CRIB II, with sensitivity and specificity of 95% and 64%, respectively.
- Survival rates of neonates between 28-32 and 32-34 weeks were significant, with statistically significant in 28-32 weeks implementing good NICU care
- CRIB II scoring had good predictive ability in neonates between 26 to 32 weeks of gestation in terms of sensitivity and specificity but to lack of standardization of score for neonates above 32 weeks; CRIB II score is not applicable to neonates above 32 weeks.
- SNAPPE II score has good mortality predictor ability in all preterm neonates between 26 to 34 weeks of gestation and low birthweight groups SNAPPE II has better sensitivity and specificity in all groups studied.

## CONCLUSION

- Depending on the outcomes, it can be concluded that the SNAPPE II score is a suitable tool for estimating mortality in neonates with very low birthweights and gestations between 28 and 32 weeks.
- SNAP PE II score is a more accurate predictor of neonatal mortality than the CRIB II score.
- Compared to birthweight and gestational age alone, CRIB-II and SNAPPE II both superior predictors of the outcome of mortality.

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**ANNEXURE – I**

**ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**



B.L.D.E. (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

(Declared vide notification No. F.9-37/2007-U.3 (A) Dated. 29-2-2008 of the MHRD, Government of India under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

The Constituent College

SHRI. B. M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE

IEC/NO-09/2021  
Date-22/01/2021

**INSTITUTIONAL ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE**

The Institutional ethical committee of this college met on 11-01-2021 at 11-00 am to scrutinize the synopsis of Postgraduate students of this college from Ethical Clearance point of view. After scrutiny the following original/corrected and revised version synopsis of the Thesis has been accorded Ethical Clearance

**Title:** Comparison of Predictive Power of CRIB-II and SNAPPE-II in Mortality risk of early pattern neonate and Very low birth weight admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

**Name of PG student:** Dr Anju.T , Department of Paediatrics

**Name of Guide/Co-investigator:** Dr M.M.Patil, Professor of Paediatrics

DR .S.V.PATIL  
CHAIRMAN, IEC

**Institutional Ethical Committee  
B L D E (Deemed to be University)  
Shri B.M. Patil Medical College,  
VIJAYAPUR-586103 (Karnataka)**

**Following documents were placed before Ethical Committee for Scrutinization:**

1. Copy of Synopsis / Research project
2. Copy of informed consent form
3. Any other relevant documents.

**ANNEXURE-II**

**RESEARCH INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

**B.L.D.E. Deemed to be University**

**SHRI B.M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH  
CENTRE, VIJAYAPUR-586103**

**TITLE OF THE PROJECT :“ Predictive Power of CRIB-II and SNAPPEII  
in Mortality Risk of Early Preterm Neonate  
and/or Low Birth Weight”**

“

**GUIDE : Dr M M Patil MD  
PROFESSOR , DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS**

**PG STUDENT: : Dr .ANJU T**

**PURPOSE OF RESEARCH:**

I have been informed that the present study will help in screening for hearing loss in high risk neonates admitted to Shri B.M. Patil Medical College.

**PROCEDURE:**

I understand that after having obtained a detailed clinical history, thorough clinical examination and relevant investigations, hearing screening will be done in high risk neonates.

**RISK AND DISCOMFORTS:**

I understand there is no risk involved and that the baby may experience some pain and discomforts during the examination. This is mainly the result of the condition and the procedures of this study are not expected to exaggerate these feelings which are associated with the usual course of treatment.

**BENEFITS:**

I understand that my participation in the study will have no direct benefit to me other than the potential benefit of the research and education.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:**

I understand that the medical information produced by this study will become a part of hospital records and will be subject to the confidentiality. Information of sensitive personal nature will not be part of the medical record, but will be stored in the investigations research file.

If the data are used for publication in the medical literature or for teaching purpose, no name will be used and other identifiers such as photographs will be used only with special written permission. I understand that I may see the photograph before giving the permission



**REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

I understand that I may ask more questions about the study at any time; Dr. ANJU T , at the department of Pediatrics is available to answer my questions or concerns. I understand that I will be informed of any significant new findings discovered during the course of the study, which might influence my continued participation. A copy of this consent form will be given to me to keep for careful reading.

**REFUSAL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATION:**

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may refuse to participate or may withdraw consent and discontinue participation in the study at any time without prejudice. I also understand that Dr. ANJU T may terminate my participation in the study after she has explained the reasons for doing so.

**INJURY STATEMENT:**

I understand that in the unlikely event of injury to my baby resulting directly from baby's participation in this study, if such injury were reported promptly, the appropriate treatment would be available to the baby. But, no further compensation would be provided by the hospital. I understand that by my agreements to participate in this study and not waiving any of my legal rights.

I have explained----- to the purpose of the research, the procedures required, and the possible risks to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_

Dr. ANJU T

(Investigator)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**PARENTS / GUARDIAN CONSENT STATEMENT:**

We confirm that Dr. ANJU T is doing a study on **“Predictive Power of CRIB-II and SNAPPE-II in Mortality Risk of Early Preterm Neonate and/or Low Birth Weight”** a hospital based prospective observational study Dr ANJU T has explained to us the purpose of research and the study procedure. We are willing to give as much as information required for the study and consent for investigations and the possible discomforts as well as benefits. We have been explained all the above in detail in our own language and we understand the same

Therefore we agree to give consent for the baby’s participation as a subject in this research project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
( Parents / Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness to signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Predictive Power of CRIB-II and SNAPPE-II in Mortality Risk of Early Preterm Neonate  
and/or Low Birth Weight**

PROFORMA

1. Baby of:

2. IP No:

3. Date of Birth:

4. Gestational Age:

5. Time of birth:

6. Classification: AGA / SGA / LGA

7. Sex:

8. Birth weight:

9. Gravida:

10. PIH: YES NO

11. GDM: YES NO

12. PROM: YES NO

13. Maternal Thrombocytopenia: YES NO

14. Maternal Fever: YES NO

15. Maternal H/O UTI: YES NO

16. Chorioamnionitis: YES NO

17. H/O Maternal vaginitis: YES NO

18. MODE OF DELIVERY: Normal vaginal/caesarean/forceps/vacuum

19. APGAR SCORE: 1min 5min

Need for resuscitation YES NO  
IF YES

20. NICU admission in hours:

21. Primary Respiratory Support: Nasal Prongs/Hood O2/CPAP/HFNC/SIMV

22. Clinical Sepsis:

a) Respiratory instability: apnea, tachypnea, increased o2 requirement/

Requirement for ventilation support : YES NO

No of days on ventilator

- b) Cardiovascular instability: heart rate -  
urine output (<1ml/kg/hr.)-  
blood pressure (MAP)  
Capillary filling time
- c) Modified body temperature
- d) Gastrointestinal instability: feeding intolerance poor sucking abdominal Distension
- e) Skin and subcutaneous lesions: petechial rash or sclerema.
- f) CNS: irritability, lethargy, hypotonia, seizure.

24. Early on Sepsis: a) Clinical Sepsis b) Probable Sepsis c) Proven Sepsis

23. ECHO

26. Lab Parameter:

- a) White blood cells count
- c) Platelet count
- d) CRP
- e) Glucose

f) Arterial Blood gas analysis

pH

pCO<sub>2</sub>

pO<sub>2</sub>

Hco<sub>3</sub>

Metabolic acidosis with base excess (BE)

Serum lactate >2mMol/l

1) **Blood Culture**

27. Early onset sepsis                      YES                      NO

28. Early onset sepsis      a) Clinical      b) Probable      c) Proven

27. Late onset sepsis                      YES                      NO

28. Late onset sepsis      a) Clinical      b) Probable      c) Proven

29. Antibiotics received amongst below

a) Piptaz      b) Amikacin      c) Meropenam      d) Vancomycin

d) Linezolid      e) Colistin      f) Amphotericin B

30. Culture positive in first 72 hours                      YES                      NO

If culture positive Organism

31. Need for inotropic support                      YES                      NO

    If used: inotroph    dopamine/adrenaline/nor adrenaline/sildenafil/milrinone/

32. HIE    YES                      NO

33. HIE    I / II / III

34. Therapeutic Hypothermia                      YES                      NO

35. Feeds intolerance                              YES                      NO

36. NPO    days

37. Final outcome    a) Discharged            b) Referred            c) DAMA    d) Death

DIAGNOSIS



## CRIB SCORING

PARAMETERS	SCORE
Birth weight	
Gestational age	
Gender	
Base excess	
Temperature	

## SNAPPE –II SCORE

PARAMETERS	SCORE
Blood pressure (MAP)	
Temperature	
Serum ph	
PaO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> Ratio	
Urine output	
Seizures	
Weight	
Gestational age	
Five minute APGAR score	



Table with columns for Name, Date, Time, Location, Agency, and various status indicators (Yes/No) for multiple categories. The table lists numerous individuals and their associated data points across various categories.