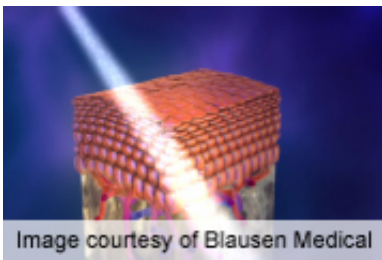


Cycled lighting improves neonates' behavior, outcomes

June 11 2012



Cycled lighting during neonatal care reduces an infant's fussing and crying behavior at 5 and 11 weeks' corrected age and correlates with a trend toward higher motor activity during daytime and improved weight gain, compared with dim lighting conditions, according to a study published online June 11 in *Pediatrics*.

(HealthDay) -- Cycled lighting (CL) during neonatal care reduces an infant's fussing and crying behavior at 5 and 11 weeks' corrected age and correlates with a trend toward higher motor activity during daytime and improved weight gain, compared with dim lighting (DL) conditions, according to a study published online June 11 in *Pediatrics*.

Caroline Guyer, M.D., from University Children's Hospital Zurich, and colleagues randomly assigned 37 very [preterm infants](#) to either CL (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. lights on; 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. lights off; 17 infants) or DL (lights off whenever the child is asleep; 20 infants). Parental diaries and actigraphy at 5 and 11 weeks' corrected age were used to assess sleeping,

crying, and activity behavior.

The researchers found a significant reduction in fussing and crying in CL-exposed infants. There was a trend toward higher motor activity during daytime in CL-exposed infants at 5 and 11 weeks' corrected age compared with DL-exposed infants. There was no significant difference in sleep behavior at 5 or 11 weeks' corrected age between the groups. Compared with DL-exposed infants, those in CL conditions showed a trend toward improved daily [weight gain](#) during [neonatal care](#).

"CL conditions in neonatal care have [beneficial effects](#) on [an] infant's fussing and crying behavior and growth in the first weeks of life," the authors write. "This study supports the introduction of CL care in clinical neonatal practice."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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