

Study examines survival of very low birthweight babies

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A new study published in *Acta Paediatrica* indicates that survival of babies born weighing ≤ 500 g is poor despite advances in neonatal care.

The study included 104 babies born over 15 years in North East England and North Cumbria, in the UK, who were ≤ 22 weeks gestation and ≤ 500 grams (approximately 1.1 lb), of which 49 were admitted for intensive care. Overall one-year survival was 11%, but survival for those receiving [intensive care](#) was 22%. There was significant short-term morbidity in surviving babies, in particular retinopathy of prematurity and [chronic lung disease](#).

"Attitudes and the approach to management of these tiny babies should be challenged, with the hope of improving outcomes," wrote the authors of the study.

More information: Jenna Gillone et al, Outcomes of infants with a birthweight less than or equal to 500 g in Northern England: 15 years experience, *Acta Paediatrica* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/apa.14024](https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.14024)

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