

brief-report

Nursery Outbreak of Neonatal Fungal Arthritis Treated with Fluconazole

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Eight preterm infants with mean gestational age of 31.6 ± 1.16 weeks and a mean birth weight of 1310 ± 201.7 g presented at a mean postnatal age of 26 ± 11.4 days with knee joint swellings and pedal oedema. There was no other clinical, haematological or microbiological evidence of bacterial sepsis. Fungal cultures yielded growth of *Candida* spp. from blood in five, from urine in four, from cerebrospinal fluid in one, and from all the three babies in whom the joints were aspirated. Radiographic changes of metaphysitis of the involved joints were noted in all. All infants had received prior antibiotic therapy. No infant had received total parenteral nutrition or had central lines inserted. All infants were treated with **fluconazole** in doses of 7.5 mg/kg/day for 6 weeks. Six of eight were thriving well at 3 months of age without any evidence of residual joint disease. One infant succumbed to disseminated disease and one was lost to follow-up. Candidial **arthritis** is an uncommon presentation of neonatal candidiasis. **Fluconazole** therapy proved effective.