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# **Lactic acid as a predictor for erythrocyte transfusion in preterm infants with anemia of prematurity**

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With few exceptions, premature infants will experience a decline in hemoglobin in the first 3 months of life. This condition termed "anemia of prematurity". Infants with hematocrite values less than 0.30 have clinical symptoms such as tachycardia, tachypnea, poor weight gain, or recurrent episodes of apnea and bradycardia. In the absence of reliable measures of clinically significant anemia, the decision to administer a blood transfusion is largely empiric, and some transfusions may be unnecessary. Significant anemia results in reduced oxygen supply to tissue and thus may lead to increased anaerobic metabolism with increased production of lactic acid. Several studies have demonstrated increased blood lactate levels in preterm infants with anemia of prematurity and its decline after erythrocyte transfusion. Our study aimed at detection of the reliability of lactic acid as indicator for erythrocyte transfusion in preterm infants with anemia of prematurity.