Supplementary Material

Our centre has clear indications for surfactant treatment that are based on the European Consensus Statement [1]. All infants in the respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) study group had severe respiratory distress and an oxygen requirement >40%. The common definition of RDS includes a characteristic chest radiograph. Some of the Very Low Birth Weight infants with RDS received – in accord with the guidelines – surfactant early after birth without having a radiograph [2]. Therefore, the common definition could not be applied in this clinical study. The definition of our RDS study population includes only severe cases of respiratory distress, therefore we excluded cases of RDS in which surfactant treatment had not been required. This approach is in accordance with previous works on RDS and surfactant application and has proven to be both rigorous and feasible [3].

Supplementary References

[1] D.G. Sweet, V. Carnielli, G. Greisen, M. Hallman, E. Ozek, R. Plavka, O. D. Saugstad, U. Simeoni, C. P. Speer, H. L. Halliday, European Consensus Guidelines on the Management of Neonatal Respiratory Distress in Preterm Infants – 2010 Update, *Neonatology* **97** (2010) 402-417.

[2] W. A. Engle, Surfactant-Replacement Therapy for Respiratory Distress in the Preterm and Term Neonate, *Pediatrics* **129** (2008) 419-432.

[3] M. A. Rojas, J. M. Lozano, M. X. Rojas, M. Laughon, C. L. Bose, M. A. Rondon, L. Charry, J. A. Bastidas, L. A. Perez, C. Rojas, O. Ovalle, L. A. Celis, J. Garcia-Harker, M. L. Jaramillo, Very Early Surfactant Without Mandatory Ventilation in Premature Infants Treated With Early Continuous Positive Airway Pressure: A Randomized, Controlled Trial, *Pediatrics* **123** (2009) 137-142.