ischaemic stroke (referred to as PAS), perinatal and neonatal ischaemic stroke, arterial ischaemic stroke, foetal stroke, and presumed pre-natal or perinatal arterial ischaemic stroke (referred to as PPERI) should be replaced by one uniform terminology, the ischaemic perinatal stroke (IPS). The term IPS was chosen to define “a group of heterogeneous conditions in which there is focal disruption of cerebral blood flow secondary to arterial or cerebral venous thrombosis or embolization between 20 weeks of foetal life through the 28th postnatal day confirmed by neuroimaging or neuropathologic studies.”2 The term IPS shall encompass all types and categories of ischaemic stroke in the perinatal period. They proposed that since the timing of the event resulting in ischaemic perinatal stroke is typically unknown, IPS should be classified based on the gestational or postnatal age at the time of diagnosis. They suggested the following three sub-categories:

1) foetal ischaemic stroke diagnosed before birth by using foetal imaging methods or in stillbirths on the basis of neuropathologic examination,

2) neonatal ischaemic stroke diagnosed after birth and on or before the 28th postnatal day including in preterm infants, and

3) presumed perinatal ischaemic stroke or PPIS diagnosed in infants more than 28 days of age in whom it is presumed but not certain that the ischaemic event occurred sometime between the 20th week of foetal life through the 28th postnatal day.

Since the emergence of the above mentioned consensus definitions and terminologies, the term ischaemic perinatal stroke (IPS) has largely replaced all other previously used terminologies over the last two years. This consensus document will be extremely helpful in developing standardized approaches to this disorder in neonates which already faces great diagnostic and management difficulties, especially in underprivileged areas of the world. It is hoped that, that such initiatives if considered globally, will serve to further enhance the quality of both clinical care and research work in the area of perinatal stroke.

Mubeen F. Rafay
Section of Pediatric Neurology, Children's Hospital, Winnipeg.

Reference

Response by Author

Madam, First I would like to thank Dr Rafay for the comments on this important issue. I agree that the terminologies and definitions have been redefined and very recently published in Pediatrics.

As this was a very recent definition and the main idea was to relay and disseminate the very important issue of arterial ischaemic stroke in the perinatal period and to increase the awareness of the possibility of stroke in the early neonatal period, that the terminology was used as previously.

However, I agree with the comments that Ischaemic Perinatal Stroke (IPS) would be the terminology that should be in use in future.

Shahnaz H. Ibrahim
Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Aga Khan University, Karachi.

Retraction of Publication


Retraction of original article in whole

Title: Effect of booklet and combined method on parents' awareness of children with thalassemia major disorder.

Authors: Ali Hassanpour Dehkordi, M. Saeed Heydarnajad.

Institution: Shahrekord University, Shahrekord, Iran.

Published in JPMA September, 2008.