IATROGENIC PATHOLOGY IN THE PRACTICE OF A NEONATOLOGIST

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Abstract Iatrogenic pathology remains one of the significant medical, social, ethical, and legal problems in modern neonatology and pediatrics. The rapid introduction of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies has considerably improved neonatal survival; however, it has simultaneously increased the incidence of iatrogenic complications, particularly among premature infants with very low birth weight. The aim of this study was to analyze the causes, forms, and preventive measures of iatrogenic pathology in neonatal practice. According to literature data, iatrogenic injuries were detected in 41% of newborns with very low birth weight, while in 14% of neonatal deaths they were identified as the primary cause of mortality. The study identified several major forms of iatrogenic pathology, including medical, manipulative, resuscitation and anesthesia-related, nutritional, radiation, and surgical iatrogeny. Manipulative and resuscitation-associated complications were considered especially dangerous because of invasive procedures, catheterization, and intensive intensive-care interventions. The occurrence of iatrogenic complications is associated with insufficient consideration of the anatomical and physiological characteristics of newborns, limited professional experience, organizational deficiencies, and irrational use of medications and medical procedures. Preventive examinations and vaccinations may also cause unavoidable adverse reactions in certain newborns and infants. Prevention of iatrogenic pathology requires improvement of healthcare organization, modernization of medical technologies, continuous professional training of healthcare personnel, and strengthening ethical and forensic medical approaches in neonatal care. Timely forensic medical assessment of medical care defects is essential for improving the quality of neonatal healthcare and protecting the life and health of children.

Keywords Neonatology, iatrogenic pathology, premature infants, neonatal intensive care, medical complications, forensic medicine.

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