Masterclasses

M7.3

Expanded Newborn Metabolic Screening in Hong Kong: 16:15 Convention Hall A Collaboration in Implementation

Role of Midwives and Obstetric Nurses in Education and Obtaining Consent for Metabolic Screening

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Metabolic screening for newborn has been implemented in many developed countries for decades. In Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong had started a pilot newborn metabolic screening as an opt-in service for parents since 2013. In this programme, the pre-test counselling and parent education are important elements to raise public awareness about the significant impact of inborn error metabolic diseases and the benefits of early diagnosis. The best time to explain the detailed information to parents will be during antenatal and immediate postnatal period. Nurses and midwives are the key personnel to give bedside explanation to parents as it allows better interaction and communication, pamphlet and video are used as supplementary tools. Before obtaining written consent, nurse should introduce parents the background and consequences of the inborn error metabolic diseases in the screening panel, method and timing of screening, possibility of the laboratory results and followup measures. The retention and use of residual dried blood spots should also be explained and approval should be obtained in advance. The benefits of this screening should be addressed and yet autonomy should be respected.