



Timing is everything?

First kangaroo-care sessions in very preterm infants in two Swiss MINI-KAB study centres

Aim

To analyse timing of first kangaroo-care (KC) sessions in very preterm infants and to understand influencing factors

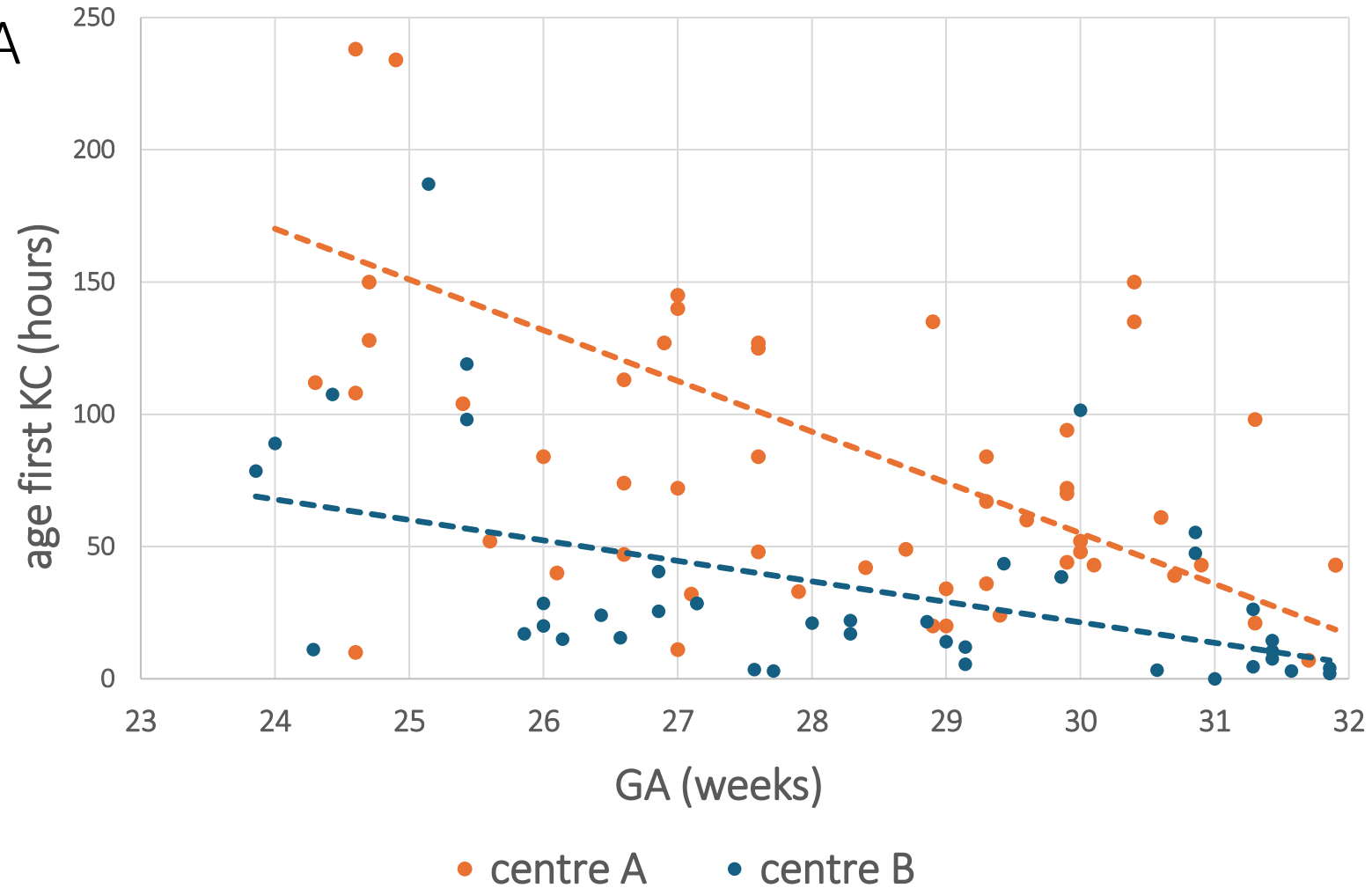
Materials and Methods

- Substudy of the multicentre NeoDeco study (RCT, optimising KC)
- Prospective data collection in Basel and Zurich

Results I

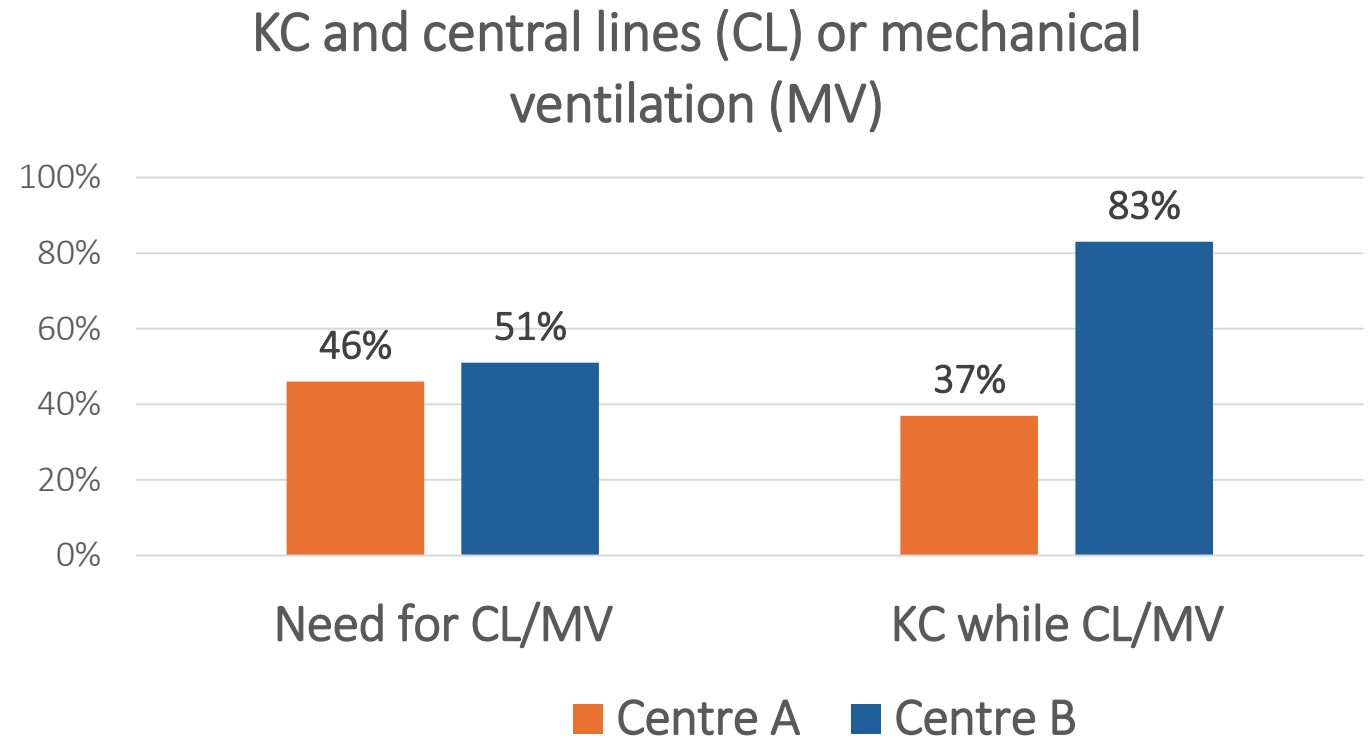
- Total of 98 infants, mean GA (range) 28^{1/7} weeks (23^{6/7}-31^{6/7}), BW 1045g (320-1800g)
- **Significantly later KC with lower GA and lower BW ($p<0.001$)**
- Age at first KC **69** hours at Centre A vs. **22** hours at Centre B ($p<0.001$)

Gestational age (GA) and postnatal age at first KC session



Results II

- Different KC practices with mechanical ventilation and/or central lines



Conclusion

- Low GA, BW and handling of intensive care interventions may delay KC
- WHO: timing is not everything, but important - **as early as possible!**
- Staff training, evaluation of practices and team communication required

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