

**CHANGES IN NUMBER, MORPHOLOGY AND VOLUME OF  
PLATELETS DURING NEONATAL SEPSIS**

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**ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КОЛИЧЕСТВА, МОРФОЛОГИИ И ОБЪЕМА  
ТРОМБОЦИТОВ ПРИ НЕОНАТАЛЬНОМ СЕПСИСЕ**

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Thrombocytopenia is considered as one of the signs of sepsis but, Changes in number, morphology and volume of platelets is not widely researched upon in this matter. Therefore, the current study is aiming to analyze the changes in number, morphology and volume of platelets during neonatal sepsis.

**Method:** This cross-sectional study has been carried out on 807 premature neonates suspected to have infection in Ghaem hospital Mashhad from 2015-2023 by using available sampling method. The data collection tool, researcher- made checklist included laboratory evaluations by which platelet indicators {Platelet count, Platelet distribution width (PDW) and mean platelet volume (MPV)} were measured and compared before, during infection and after recovery. Afterwards, platelet characteristics in septic neonates (Case group) were compared to neonates without definite signs of infection (Control group).

**Results:** Two hundred ninety-five neonates (35.5%) had definitive sepsis. In the case group the number of platelets was less and the amount of MPV and PDW were higher than control group. The number of platelets decreases during infection, but this numbers increase after recovery. PDW increases during infection and after recovery. Fifty four percent of infected neonates had thrombocytopenia. Thrombocytopenia in 78% of neonates with sepsis caused by klebsiella pneumoniae and in 58% of the cases caused Enterobacter aerogenes was seen. The optimal cutoff value of platelet to differentiate case from those of control group was lower than 100000/mcL, with a sensitivity of 73%, specificity 12.2% (AUC=0.427), MPV more than 9.8(fl), with a sensitivity of 80%, specificity 47% (AUC=0.618), PDW more than 11.2(fl), with a sensitivity of 90%, specificity 28.4% (AUC=0.763).

**Conclusion:** During infection the number of platelets decreases, but MPV and PDW increase. Thrombocytopenia was seen more in Gram-negative bacteria rather than Gram-positive. During infection the number of platelets decreases but after

recovery the number of platelets, MPV and PDW increases. Platelet indices have good sensitivity but low specificity in diagnosing definitive infection.

**Keywords:** neonates, sepsis, platelets, Platelet distribution width (PDW), mean platelet volume (MPV), bacteria.

## Резюме

**Введение:** Тромбоцитопения считается одним из признаков сепсиса, однако изменения количества, морфологии и объема тромбоцитов при этом изучены недостаточно. В этой связи настоящее исследование было посвящено анализу указанных изменений тромбоцитов при неонатальном сепсисе.

**Метод:** Проведено поперечное исследование на 807 недоношенных новорожденных с подозрением на инфекцию в больнице Гаем в Мешхеде с 2015 по 2023 годы с использованием доступного метода отбора проб. Метод сбора данных и контрольный список, составленный исследователями, включал лабораторные анализы для измерения и сравнения показателей тромбоцитов {количество тромбоцитов, ширина распределения тромбоцитов (PDW) и средний объем тромбоцитов (MPV)} до, во время инфекции и после выздоровления. После этого характеристики тромбоцитов у септических новорожденных (группа случаев) сравнивались с новорожденными без определенных признаков инфекции (контрольная группа).

**Результаты:** У двухсот девяноста пяти новорожденных (35,5%) был диагностирован сепсис. В группе случаев количество тромбоцитов было меньше, а уровень MPV и PDW было выше, чем в контрольной группе. Количество тромбоцитов уменьшается во время инфекции, но увеличивается после выздоровления. PDW увеличивается во время инфекции и после выздоровления. У пятидесяти четырех процентов инфицированных новорожденных отмечена тромбоцитопения: 78% новорожденных с сепсисом, вызванным *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, и 58% случаев, вызванным *Enterobacter aerogenes*. Оптимальное пороговое значение тромбоцитов для различий между группой случаев и контрольной группы было ниже 100000/мкл, с чувствительностью 73%, специфичностью 12,2% (AUC=0,427), MPV более 9,8(Fl), с чувствительностью 80%, специфичностью 47% (AUC=0,618), PDW более 11,2(Fl), с чувствительностью 90%, специфичностью 28,4% (AUC=0,763).

**Заключение:** Во время неонатального сепсиса количество тромбоцитов уменьшается, но уровни MPV и PDW увеличиваются. Тромбоцитопения чаще наблюдалась при патологии, вызванной грамотрицательными чем грамположительными бактериями. Во время инфекции количество тромбоцитов уменьшается, однако после выздоровления количество тромбоцитов, MPV и PDW увеличивается. При диагностике типичной инфекции индексы тромбоцитов показали хорошую чувствительность, но низкую специфичность.

**Ключевые слова:** новорожденные, сепсис, тромбоциты, ширина распределения тромбоцитов по объему (PDW), средний объем тромбоцитов (MPV), бактерии.

1 **1 Introduction**

2 Sepsis is one of the most common infectious diseases in neonates which most often  
3 appears in premature and low birth weight neonates [47] and in developing countries  
4 it is considered as one of the main reasons for neonatal death [34]. In general, sepsis  
5 is described as a systemic inflammatory reaction against infections [1]. Mostly,  
6 positive blood culture with the addition of clinical and laboratory signs of infection  
7 is considered as definitive sepsis [18]. Early diagnosis and treatment of sepsis is a  
8 necessity to reduce morbidity and mortality due to infection [10]. Therefore,  
9 different parameters must be used. Due to the fact that blood culture is time-  
10 consuming and needs at least 48 to 72 hours, in order to diagnose and treat sepsis on  
11 time, we can rely on hematologic findings such as platelet indicators {the number of  
12 platelets,

13 Platelet distribution width ( PDW) and mean platelet volume (MPV)} [2, 6, 27].  
14 Since platelet indicators are biomarkers of platelet activation, during sepsis, these  
15 indicators also change [9].

16 Platelets are one of the blood components and are involved in different physiological  
17 and pathological processes such as homeostasis, thrombosis, bleeding, inflammation  
18 and Immune regulation.

19 The number of platelets is considered as a nonspecific biomarker in diagnosing  
20 sepsis or other diseases. Platelet count is quite important and thrombocytopenia is  
21 one of the initial findings in neonatal sepsis. In Oh et al study, platelet count of less  
22 than 80000/ microliter in 40% of patients with severe sepsis was reported [38].  
23 Thrombocytopenia happens when the number of platelets is less than 150000 per  
24 microliter [23]. In septic patients, thrombocytopenia mostly follows with irregular  
25 responses from the host [52]. The pathogenesis of thrombocytopenia in neonatal  
26 sepsis is not fully understood yet. It is plausible that during neonatal sepsis,  
27 endothelial damage activates platelet harvesting by the reticuloendothelial system

28 (RES), and possibly, platelet production decreases relative to its consumption during  
29 infection[32].

30 MPV in physiologic situations has an opposite relation with the number of platelets  
31 [40]. MPV is used in diagnosing, predicting and monitoring the severity of neonatal  
32 sepsis [39]. Increase in MPV levels is an indicator of increase in platelet production  
33 in bone marrow which happens in conditions such as septicemia, thrombosis or  
34 inflammations [28]. Significant increase in MPV levels compared to base amounts  
35 in neonatal sepsis was reported by Guida et al. A combination of increase in platelet  
36 destruction and insufficient platelet production during thrombocytopenia caused by  
37 sepsis in neonates can cause the release of immature platelets into the bloodstream.  
38 The increase in immature platelet levels in blood can raise MPV levels [20].

39 PDW is an indicator of changes in platelet volume in size and shows heterogeneity  
40 in platelet morphology. In case of platelet anisocytosis, PDW increases. PDW  
41 reference value ranges from 8.3% to 56.6%. Under physiologic circumstances, there  
42 is a direct link between MPV and PDW and they both usually change in one direction  
43 [9]. Tayman et al have reported higher levels of PDW followed by an increase in  
44 MPV levels during sepsis in consecutive days among premature neonates which  
45 ultimately died [50].

46 As noted in limited studies, the size and the morphology of a platelet changes during  
47 the infection. However, the studies have been carried out, using low sample sizes  
48 and they occasionally had inconsistent outcomes. Considering the fact that the  
49 number and morphology of platelets is easily accessible for the physician, if these  
50 factors help evaluate the possibility of infection, early treatment would be started for  
51 the neonate which can lead to improve patient's survival. Therefore, the current  
52 study is done aiming to analyze the changes in number, morphology and volume of  
53 platelets before, during infection and after recovering from neonatal sepsis and  
54 comparing it with neonates without infection.

## 55 2 Methods



56 This cross-sectional study has been performed on 807 premature neonates suspected  
57 to have infection in Ghaem hospital, Mashhad, from 2015 to 2023 by using available  
58 sampling method. This study was approved by the ethics committee of Mashhad  
59 University of Medical Sciences (IR.MUMS.fm.REC.1401.658) and samples were  
60 taken after obtaining the consent of parents. A sample containing 1 cc of blood was  
61 collected in order to evaluate PLT, MPV and PDW. Inclusion criteria were as  
62 follows: having at least one of the symptoms such as poor feeding, listlessness and  
63 lethargy, hypotonia, respiratory distress, hypo or hyperthermia, apnea, seizure, direct  
64 jaundice, diarrhea and vomiting, loss of consciousness, bradycardia, showing signs  
65 of local infections, abdominal distension[11]. Laboratory symptoms confirming  
66 sepsis included leukocytosis (WBC more than 15000) and Leukopenia (WBC less  
67 than 5000), thrombocytopenia ( $plt \leq 150/000$ ) and CRP positive (more or equal to 6  
68 milligrams per deciliters).

69 Neonates with positive blood culture in addition to having at least one of the clinical  
70 signs of infection and one of the laboratory signs of infection were considered to  
71 have definitive sepsis (Case group). Neonates with positive blood culture during the  
72 first three days of hospitalization were considered to have early onset sepsis (EOS)  
73 and neonates who showed signs of infection after 3 days were considered to have  
74 late onset sepsis (LOS). Neonates without definite signs of infection and negative  
75 blood culture were considered as the control group. Neonates with congenital  
76 infections and congenital anomaly were excluded from the study.

77 After obtaining the blood culture results, understudy units were deliberated in terms  
78 of the number of platelets, PDW and MPV and a comparison was made between  
79 case and control group. Also, the number of platelets, PDW, and MPV were  
80 compared before, during, and after infection recovery. Data collection tool was  
81 researcher made checklist including the neonates' laboratory specifications (plt,  
82 MPV and PDW).

83 After collecting and coding the data, they were analyzed using SPSS (version 26).  
84 In the data analysis stage, first a general description of data was obtained with  
85 statistical tables and charts, and then, by using the T-Test, we compared platelet  
86 indices in non-infected and infected neonates. The ROC curve analyses have been  
87 performed to evaluate if platelet count could be a biomarker for distinguishing  
88 definitive infection from those without infection. The significance level in all cases  
89 is  $p \leq 0/05$ .

### 90 3 Results

91 Eight hundred and seven neonates suspected of infection have been enrolled in this  
92 study. Five hundred and twelve neonates (66%) did not have infection and 295  
93 neonates (35.5%) had infection. The number of platelets, MPV and PDW in two  
94 groups had statistically significant difference. In the group with definitive infection,  
95 the number of platelets was lower and the amount of MPV and RDW were higher  
96 (Table1).

97 The results of the study depicted that the number of platelets decreases during  
98 infection, but this number increases after recovery (Figure 1).

99 PDW increases during infection and after recovery (Figure 2).

100 In this study, 54.5% of infected neonates and 32.7% non-infected neonates had  
101 thrombocytopenia. Forty percent of neonates with EOS and 57% of neonates with  
102 LOS, had thrombocytopenia ( $p=0/000$ ). Thrombocytopenia in LOS was 1.5 times  
103 more than EOS. Thrombocytopenia can be observed in more than 50% of neonates  
104 with sepsis klebsiella pneumoniae and Enterobacter aerogenes (Figure 3).

105 As can be seen in Table 2, PDW higher than 11.5 FL is observed in 88.2% of  
106 neonates with definitive infection.

107 As seen in Table 3, MPW higher than 11FL is observed in 47% of neonates with  
108 infection, while it is reported in less than 8% of non-infected neonates.

109 Platelet count less than 100,000 per microliter has a sensitivity of 73% and a  
110 specificity of 12.2% in diagnosis of neonatal sepsis (AUC=0.427). MPV more than  
111 9.8FL has 80% sensitivity and 47% specificity in neonatal sepsis diagnosis  
112 (AUC=0.618). PDW greater than 11.2 FL has a sensitivity of 90.1% and a specificity  
113 of 28.4% in diagnosis of neonatal sepsis (AUC=0.763) (Figure 4).

114 The comparison of platelet indices between Gram-positive and Gram-negative  
115 bacteria shows that the number of platelets decreases more and MPV significantly  
116 increases in sepsis caused by Gram-negative bacteria compared to Gram-positive  
117 bacteria (Table 4).

118 The highest amount of platelets was reported in sepsis with Enterobacter agent and  
119 the least amount of platelets, in sepsis with enterococcus agent (Figure5).

#### 120 4 Discussion

121 According to the results of this study, in infants with definite infection compared to  
122 infants without definite infection the number of platelets is reduced, and this  
123 decrease is seen more in infections caused by Gram-negative bacteria. Although the  
124 reduction of platelets has an acceptable sensitivity for diagnosis of definitive  
125 infection, it has very little specificity. In this study, Thrombocytopenia in the group  
126 with infection was 1.5 times more than the group without infection (54% compared  
127 to 34%). The incidence of thrombocytopenia in sepsis has been reported to be 20 to  
128 81% [5, 35, 36, 43]. Ahmad et al introduced thrombocytopenia as a predictor of  
129 neonatal sepsis. They observed a higher mortality rate in infants with  
130 thrombocytopenia [2]. Thrombocytopenia in septic neonates is multi factorial and  
131 can be divided into several general categories such as increased platelet destruction,  
132 reduce in platelet production, various reasons and unknown reasons [4]. Physicians,  
133 who are faced with this homeostatic disorder or significant decrease in the number  
134 of platelets, should actively identify the underlying causes and try to rectify it.  
135 Detailed patient history and precise physical exam are the keys to a correct diagnosis,  
136 which should be approved by laboratory test results along with data analysis in

137 clinical context [53]. Thrombocytes have a complicated role in sepsis. During sepsis  
138 and stimulation of pathogens, coagulation cascades, inflammatory responses along  
139 with endothelial tissue damage continuously cause activation of platelets [14] and  
140 platelets' surface proteins can connect to bacteria [21]. Platelet consumption by  
141 platelet activation with intermediate thromboses is the most common mechanism. In  
142 severe sepsis diffuse intravascular coagulation can happen which can lead to  
143 intravascular fibrin formation and thrombotic vascular occlusion. Consumption of  
144 platelets and its subsequent thrombocytopenia and reduction of coagulation factors  
145 simultaneously, caused by continuous coagulation, can cause excessive bleeding [53].  
146 According to the fact that thrombocytopenia occurs in half of the neonates with  
147 sepsis, we can use it as a marker for neonatal sepsis diagnosis, since this blood  
148 marker can be quickly accessed by the physician.

149 The probable pathophysiology is neonatal sepsis-induced endothelial damage and  
150 the formation of microthrombi, which can lead to the consumption of platelets. The  
151 imbalance between the production from the bone marrow and consumption leads to  
152 low platelet count in neonatal sepsis [42].

153 In this study thrombocytopenia in LOS was 1.5 times more than EOS (57%  
154 compared to 40%). In Khasswanhe et al study, higher rates of thrombocytopenia in  
155 neonates with LOS was reported, approximately three times higher than EOS (59.3%  
156 compared to 24%) [26]. In Sangsari et al study, 33.3% of neonates with EOS, 40%  
157 of neonates with LOS and 50% of neonates with clinical infections had  
158 thrombocytopenia [35]. In Mittal and Guida studies, prevalence of  
159 thrombocytopenia in LOS was significantly higher than EOS [20, 36].

160 According to our study the number of platelets decreases more and MPV  
161 significantly increases in Gram-negative bacteria caused infection compared to  
162 infections caused by Gram-positive. In Guida et al study the duration of  
163 thrombocytopenia related to sepsis was different depending on the microorganisms  
164 causing it. Gram negative and fungal infections had a longer period of

165 thrombocytopenia compared to the gram-positive infections [20]. According to  
166 studies, platelet levels in sepsis cases caused by gram-negative microorganisms in  
167 comparison with gram positive cases was less [3, 5, 8, 29].

168 In 69% of the cases with sepsis *klebsiella pneumoniae* and 57% with *Enterobacter*  
169 *aerogenes* agent thrombocytopenia was observed. Although thrombocytopenia can  
170 be seen in various microbial causes of neonatal infection, but according to  
171 Ghanghoriya study, in infections caused by gram-negative microbes specially in  
172 *klebsiella* [17] and according to Torkaman study, in infections caused by  
173 *Enterobacter* it was more common [51]. In Karne study, *Pseudomonas aerogenes* was  
174 the most common organism causing neonatal sepsis accompanying severe  
175 thrombocytopenia (64.7%) than mild or moderate thrombocytopenia [25]. This may  
176 be due to more endotoxin produced by the Gram-negative bacteria. Bacterial  
177 endotoxin inhibits platelet production by obstructing the bone marrow  
178 megakaryocytes in patients [16]. Whereas, In Sangsari et al study, thrombocytopenia  
179 was observed in 28.5% of neonatal sepsis with gram-positive and 16.6% with gram-  
180 negative [35]. In Shane et al study, thrombocytopenia was diagnosed in 25% of  
181 neonates with sepsis, but there wasn't a significant difference between gram-positive  
182 and gram-negative caused infections [48]. Since the outbreak of thrombocytopenia  
183 in cases of sepsis due to gram-negative microorganisms is more common, therefore  
184 in cases of thrombocytopenia in neonatal sepsis, initially a suitable treatment for  
185 gram negatives should be considered.

186 In our study, moderate thrombocytopenia (PLT<100,000 per microliter) has a  
187 sensitivity of 73% and a specificity of 12.2% in diagnosis of neonatal sepsis  
188 (AUC=0.427). Thrombocytopenia (platelet count <1.50.000/ $\mu$ l) had the highest  
189 sensitivity to detect sepsis (87.91%) followed by MPV and PDW with a sensitivity  
190 of 84.9% and 79.12%, respectively (Majumdar et al., 2021). The sensitivity and  
191 specificity of thrombocytopenia in detecting neonatal sepsis was found to be 83.08%  
192 and 20.33%, respectively [2].

193 According to the results of this study, MPV increases in infants with definitive  
194 infection compared to those without infection and this increase is significantly  
195 higher in gram-negative bacteria caused sepsis. In neonates with definitive infection  
196 high MPV (more than 11fL) has been reported 6 times more than uninfected  
197 neonates. Choudhary et al reported that high levels of MPV and PDW, and  
198 thrombocytopenia is more common in LOS than EOS [13]. In Mittal study, a  
199 significantly higher MPV in the LOS group was reported [36]. MPV, due to its  
200 sensitivity can be used as a marker for platelet morphology. Any rise in MPV level  
201 indicates a raise in platelet production by the bone marrow as a reciprocation to its  
202 destruction or consumption elsewhere. In general, platelets reduce in size due to  
203 aging, as a result MPV decreases. Moreover, it is depicted that platelets that have  
204 increased volume are more active, hypersensitive, and have a faster respond during  
205 the aggregation process while demanding minimum stimulus. These platelets are  
206 more adhesive in nature and in order to aid blood stasis they become more inert.  
207 These traits are believed to be due to the presence of excess of dense granules and  
208 thromboxane in the cytoplasm of larger platelets [7]. MPV is used as a potential  
209 marker for early diagnosis of severe sepsis and predicting the outcomes [24, 25].  
210 The results of Cai et al study depicted that MPV can be an independent predictor of  
211 neonatal sepsis prognosis, and can help predict the prognosis of premature neonates  
212 with LOS in early stages [12]. In Mittal study, MPV increased in 70.7% of neonatal  
213 sepsis [36]. The difference between baseline MPV level of neonates with culture-  
214 proven sepsis was comparatively higher than control group and this difference was  
215 found to be statistically significant. Hence, MPV can be used as a simple,  
216 economical, and specific factor to predict neonatal sepsis [22]. In Sangsari et al  
217 study, increase in MPV levels in 25.6% of septic neonates was observed [45].  
218 According to the results of Cai et al study, increase in MPV levels in premature  
219 neonates can be caused by increase in blood coagulation, increased inflammatory  
220 response and oxidative stress. Which amongst all these reasons, the most common  
221 cause of relation between MPV and mortality is inflammatory responses [12].

222 Elevated MPV may indicate endothelial damage as well as platelet activation, and  
223 is an easily accessible hematological parameter [49]. According to results of  
224 Shaaban study MPV levels on third day after birth can be used as an alternate marker  
225 for predicting EOS and mortality related to it in premature neonates [46]. Therefore,  
226 given that the MPV increases during inflammation, it can be considered as a  
227 predicting marker in premature neonates with sepsis. However, the exact  
228 pathophysiologic mechanisms are still unknown [54].

229 In our study, increase in MPV greater than 9.8fl has a sensitivity of 80% and a  
230 specificity of 47% in diagnosing the infection. In Tayman study, the MPV value of  
231 10.35 FL was considered as the cut off value in patients probably resulting in sepsis  
232 with a sensitivity of 97.8% and specificity of 78.7% (AUC = 0.949; P < 0.001)[50].  
233 In Milas study, MPV levels in infected neonates were found significantly higher  
234 compared to healthy neonates. In sepsis diagnosis, sensitivity and specificity of  
235 MPV was proven to be 0.675 (95% CI: 0.536-0.790) and 0.733 (95% CI: 0.589-  
236 0.840), respectively, at an optimal cutoff point of 9.28fL [35]. In Sagheb study, there  
237 were statistically significant differences between MPV (Mean Difference: 0.56, 95%  
238 CI: 0.25 to 0.86, p<0.001) in neonatal sepsis compared to healthy neonates.  
239 Diagnostic cut-off levels with sensitivity of (80.56%) and specificity of (52%) were  
240 found to be MPV > 9.2 FL [44]. The sensitivity and specificity values of MPV (cut-  
241 off >9 FL) were 63.40% and 53.8% respectively. The area under the curve (AUC)  
242 values for MPV, in the ROC analysis were 0.641[42]. In Pamudji study, Mean  
243 platelet volume with a cut-off point of 7.44 FL can be used for neonatal sepsis  
244 diagnosis with a sensitivity of 80% and 84.2% specificity [41]. The mechanism of  
245 changing platelet function in sepsis is still unclear. During activation, platelet  
246 morphology changes from discoid to spherical with pseudopodia. MPV reflects the  
247 average size of platelets. Old platelets are smaller in size in comparison with young  
248 platelets. An increase in number of young platelets indicates a raise in platelet  
249 production due to overconsumption induced by inflammation. Larger platelets are

250 believed to be metabolically, functionally, and enzymatically more active than  
251 smaller platelets.

252 According to the results of this study, PDW has a definitive increase in neonates  
253 with infection compared to those without infection, which this increase is  
254 insignificantly higher in Gram-negative bacteria caused sepsis. Increase in PDW  
255 greater than 11.2 has a sensitivity of 90% and a specificity of 28% for the diagnosis  
256 of definitive infection. In Sangsari et al study, increase in PDW levels was observed  
257 in 24.3% of septic neonates [45]. In 67% of cases (n = 188) PDW was found to  
258 increase compared to the control group (36.2%) (P < 0.0001) [36]. Guclu et al  
259 reported that septic patients with PDW levels higher than 18%, had worse outcomes  
260 [19]. The results of Meabed study depicted that the average amount of platelets and  
261 PDW among septic neonates was less than the control group. Meanwhile, PDW level  
262 in septic patients was significantly higher than control group. PDW increases during  
263 infection [33]. In Karne study, Platelet indices, MPV and PDW values were  
264 increased in newborns with sepsis. 43.69% of proven and probable sepsis showed  
265 increased PDW value [25]. Therefore, platelet function can be an important  
266 diagnostic marker in neonatal sepsis [33]. In Tayman et al study, there were no  
267 statistically significant difference in PDW levels between the group of neonates with  
268 sepsis and the control group [50]. Catal et al study reported higher levels of PDW  
269 along with higher MPV levels during sepsis episodes on consecutive days among  
270 non-survivors [50]. According to Choudhar study, 65.81% of the neonates in case  
271 group and 34.69% in control group had PDW higher than 19.1fl and which this  
272 difference between the two groups was statistically significant, (p=0.0001)[36].  
273 PDW is an indicator of volume variability in platelets size and depicts the  
274 heterogeneity in platelet morphology [15]. It increases when there is platelet  
275 anisocytosis. Under physiological conditions, there is a direct connection between  
276 MPV and PDW; both usually change in the same direction [9]. A high PDW may  
277 result from platelet swelling in the circulation and platelet immaturity, which can  
278 indicate platelet heterogeneity [31]. In order to predict outcomes in pediatric and



279 neonatal sepsis, metrics such as PDW, which is an indicator of platelet size, have  
280 been used. Changes in these parameters during sepsis can help us gain a plain insight  
281 into the multiple roles played by platelets in sepsis pathophysiology [37].

282 The main limitation of our study is its retrospective nature. Therefore, it is  
283 recommended to carry out detailed prospective studies on this subject.

## 284 **5 Conclusion**

285 Sepsis in premature neonates can lead to thrombocytopenia and changes in platelet  
286 indicators (PDW, MPV and PLT) and all these indicators are easily accessible and  
287 cost-effective and can be obtained during usual blood count. During infection the  
288 number of platelets decreases, but MPV and PDW increase. Before and during  
289 infection the number of platelets and MPV decrease but after recovery the number  
290 of platelets, MPV and PDW increase. Thrombocytopenia in LOS was 1.5 times more  
291 than EOS, and thrombocytopenia in sepsis caused by gram-negative microorganisms  
292 was more common than gram-positive. Increase MPV and PDW in sepsis caused by  
293 gram-negative microorganisms was more common than gram-positive. Platelet  
294 indices have good sensitivity but low specificity in diagnosing definitive infection

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**ТАБЛИЦЫ**

**Table 1.** Comparing the mean amount of laboratory variables of neonates in two groups of neonates without infection and those with infection.

<b>variable</b>	<b>Case group</b> N=295 (34%)	<b>Control group</b> N=512 (66%)	<b>P- Value*</b> <b>(T-Test)</b>
<b>The number of platelets</b>	164.00±129.00	204.00±116.00	0.005
<b>MPV</b>	11.88±5.05	9.31±1.28	0.000
<b>PDW</b>	13.00±2.00	12.62±2.05	0.000

**Table 3.** Comparing the PDW of neonates in two groups of neonates without infection and those with infection.

<b>Variable: PDW</b>	<b>Case group</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Control group</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>P- Value</b> <b>(chi-square)</b>
<b>Normal (7.5-11)</b>	11.8	32.2	0.001
<b>Abnormal (&gt;11.5)</b>	88.2	64.8	

**Table 4.** Comparing the **MPV** of neonates in two groups of neonates without infection and those with infection.

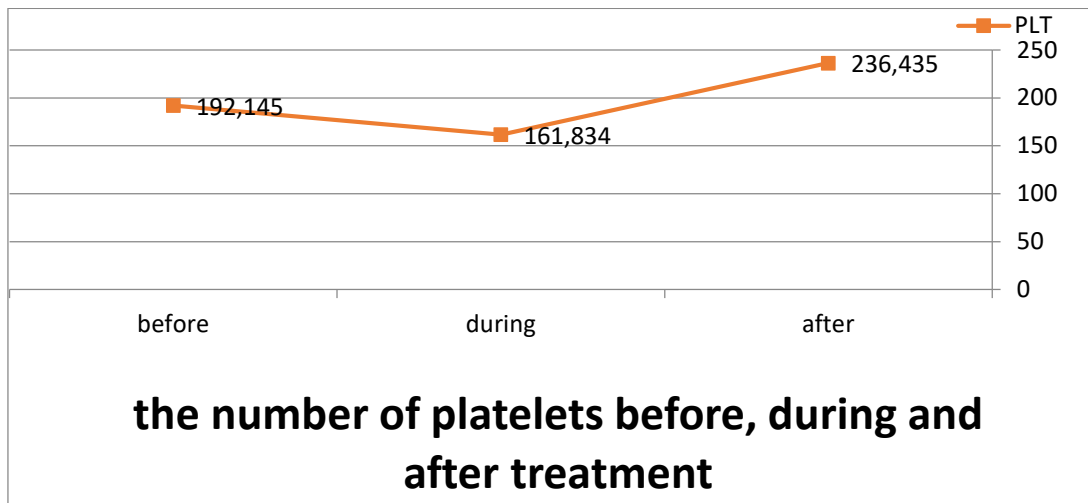
<b>Variable: MPV</b>	<b>Definitive infection (%)</b>	<b>without infection (%)</b>	<b>The significance level* (chi-square)</b>
<b>Normal (&lt;11)</b>	52.6	92.3	0.001
<b>Abnormal (&gt;11)</b>	47.4	7.7	

**Table 5.** Comparing the mean amount of laboratory variables of neonates in two groups of gram-negative and gram-positive micro-organisms.

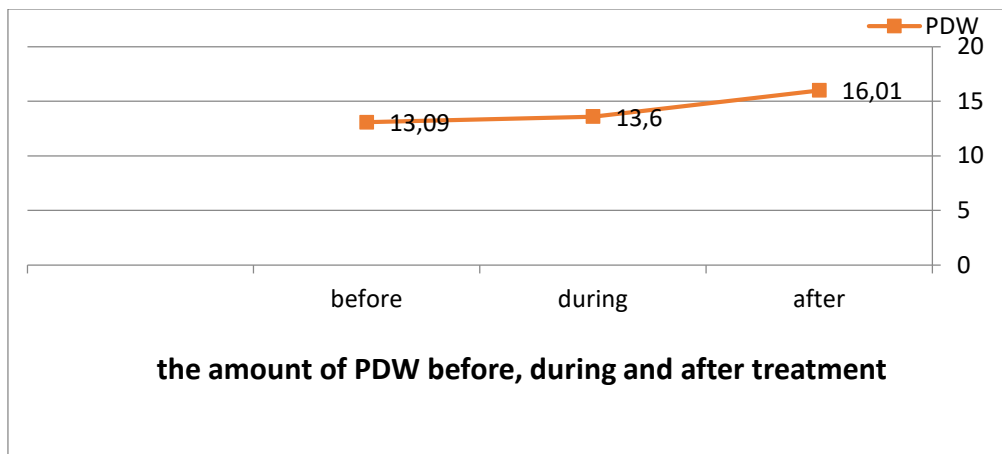
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Gram negative Mean ± SD</b>	<b>Gram positive Mean ± SD</b>	<b>The significance level* (T-Test)</b>
<b>PLT count</b>	153.58±113.93	188.71±162.15	0.001
<b>MPV</b>	11.92±3.04	10.80±2.33	0.047
<b>PDW</b>	13.98±2.47	13.54±2.97	0.490

РИСУНКИ

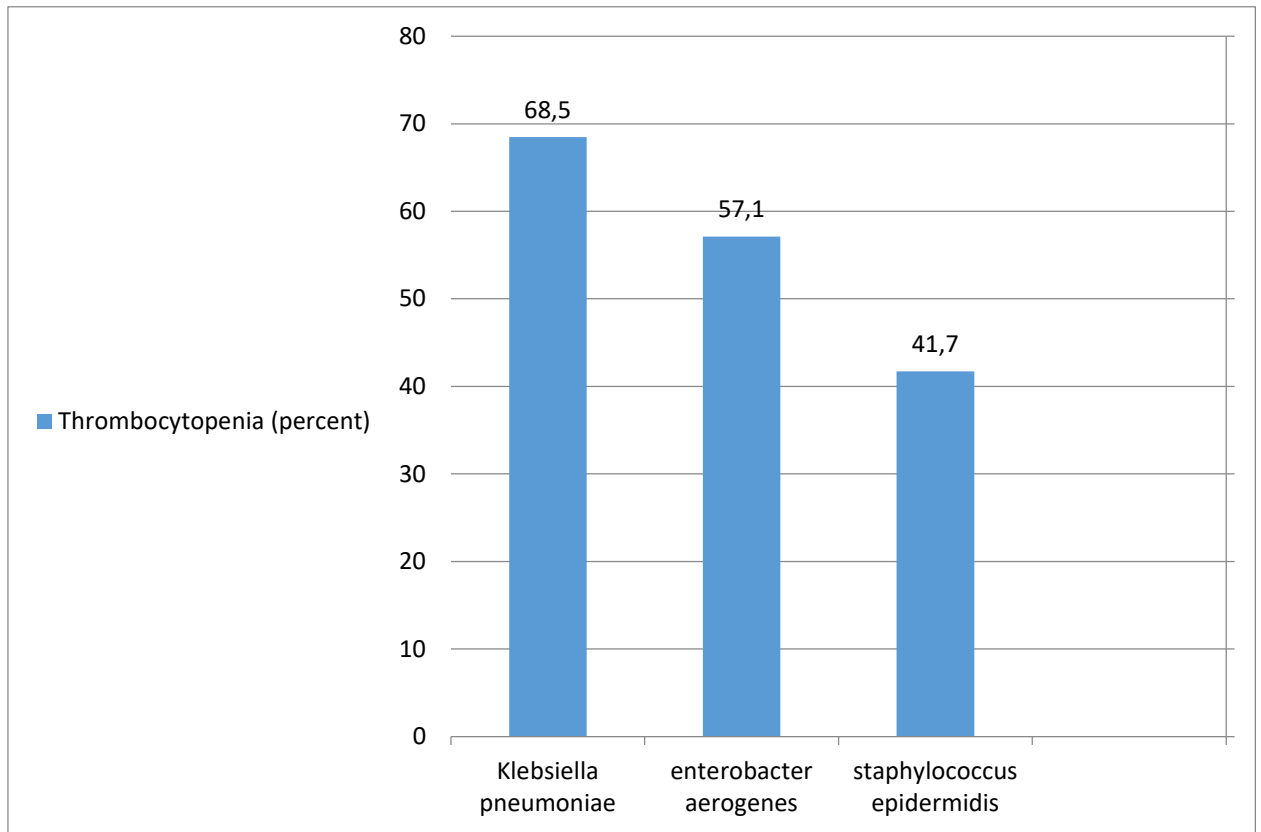
**Figure 1.** Changes of platelet before, during infection and after treatment.



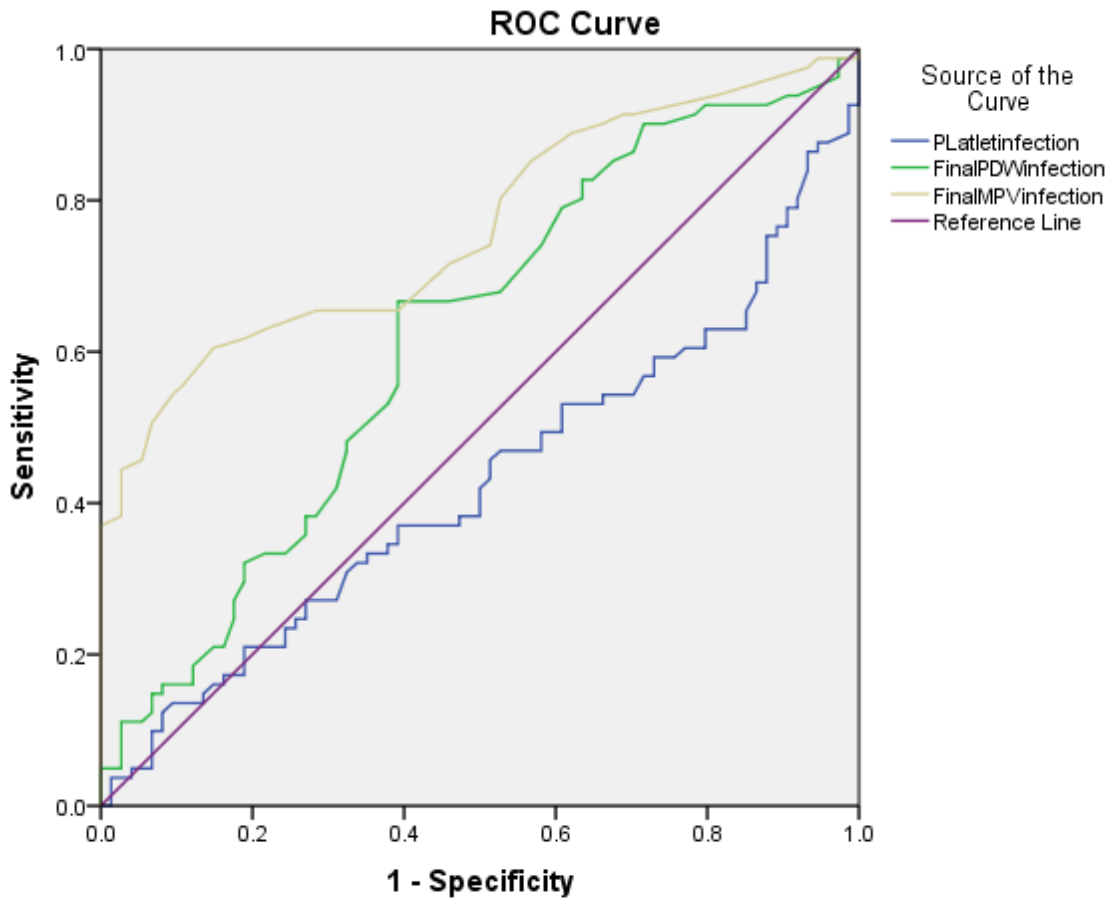
**Figure 2.** Changes in PDW before, during and after treatment.



**Figure 3.** The percentage of thrombocytopenia in neonates with infection.

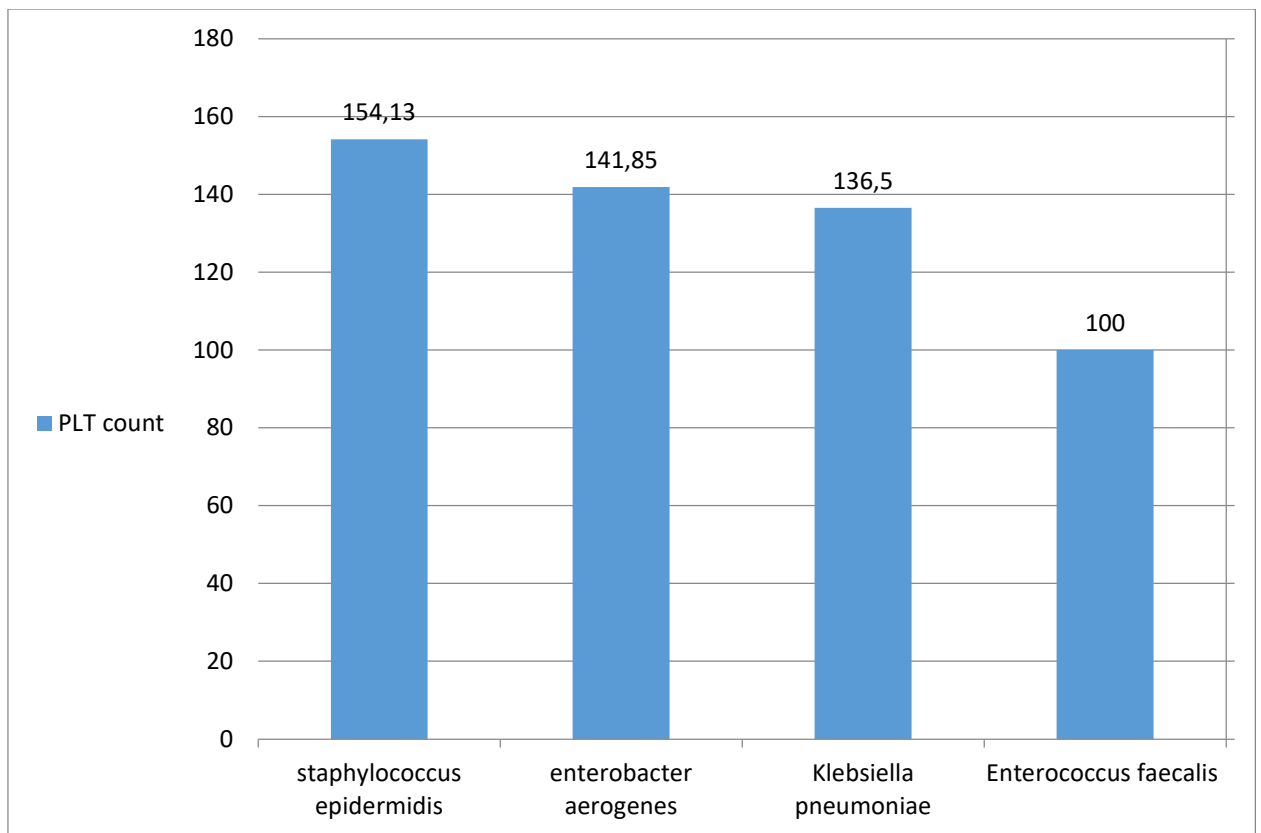


**Figure 4.** Sensitivity and specificity of PLT, PDW and MPV in diagnosis of neonatal sepsis.



Diagonal segments are produced by ties.

**Figure 5.** Mean amount of platelet in sepsis common germs among neonates with infection.



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**Блок 3. Метаданные статьи**

CHANGES IN NUMBER, MORPHOLOGY AND VOLUME OF PLATELETS  
DURING NEONATAL SEPSIS

ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ КОЛИЧЕСТВА, МОРФОЛОГИИ И ОБЪЕМА  
ТРОМБОЦИТОВ ПРИ НЕОНАТАЛЬНОМ СЕПСИСЕ

**Сокращенное название статьи для верхнего колонтитула:**

PLATELETS IN NEONATAL SEPSIS

ТРОМБОЦИТЫ ПРИ НЕОНАТАЛЬНОМ СЕПСИСЕ

**Keywords:** neonates, sepsis, platelets, Platelet distribution width (PDW), mean platelet volume (MPV), bacteria.

**Ключевые слова:** новорожденные, сепсис, тромбоциты, распределение тромбоцитов по ширине (PDW), средний объем тромбоцитов (MPV), бактерии.

Оригинальные статьи.

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