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## **Respiratory distress syndrome in Switzerland: Comparison of the 1984 with the 1974 data**

In a retrospective study (questionnaire) covering all the neonatal special care units of Switzerland, information was obtained on the problem cases in 87% of all babies born in 1984<sup>1</sup>. 8.3% were hospitalized. Clinical respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) was diagnosed in 31% of these infants and hyaline membrane disease (HMD) in 6.3%. Mortality in clinical RDS was 7.1% and in HMD 19%. Mortality showed a high degree of correlation with birthweight. Comparison of the 1984 data with a similar study in 1974<sup>2</sup> showed no significant change in the incidence of clinical RDS. The incidence of HMD (diagnosis by the same criteria) has fallen from 10.1% to 6.3%. Overall mortality in hospitalized newborns in Switzerland has decreased from 8.8% in 1974 to 4% in 1984.

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### **References**

- 1 Baeckert P, Ackermann-Liebrich U, Duc G. Das neonatale Atemnotsyndrom in der Schweiz. *Schweiz. med. Wschr.* 1987; *117*:1021–1027.
- 2 Fanconi A, Stoll W, Duc G, Bossi E, Prod'homme S. Das Atemnotsyndrom des Neugeborenen in der Schweiz. *Schweiz. med. Wschr.* 1976; *106*: 1426–1429.