Abstract

Premature infants are known to face a more diverse set of poor health outcomes when compared to full-term infants. Previous studies have compared the two groups examining very specific health morbidities such as asthma and cognitive disabilities, but a varied and complete list in the differences in diagnoses faced by premature infants versus full-term infants has yet to be created for premature populations in Alaska. Using a prospective medical records review from a single clinic in Anchorage, Alaska, this study compared cohorts of premature and full-term infants, examining the diseases and health outcomes faced by both groups. The medical records review, done via anonymous sampling through an electronic database, revealed that full-term and preterm infants face distinctive health outcomes and that these distinctions continue past the infancy period. Premature infants routinely had higher levels of diagnoses concerning respiratory function, developmental delays and various and viral infections when compared to the full-term cohort throughout their first two years of life. Examining and verifying results such as these can help to create preventative and more comprehensive care for premature infants.