**Supplemental Table 3.** Clinical characteristics of participants and drop-outs

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parameters | Participants (n=129) | Drop-outs (n=118) | P value |
| gestational age at birth [weeks]mean ± SD (range) | 27.91 ± 2.19(23.71 - 31.71) | 28.04 ± 2.44 (23.00 - 31.71) | 0,4985 |
| birth weight [g]mean ± SD (range) | 1005 ± 292(450 – 1495) | 1053 ± 318(310 – 1495) | 0,1826 |
| IVH (CUS)- Yes/No [n]  | 18/111 | 19/94 | Yes/No: |
| Grade I [n]  | 9 | 7 | 0.5932 |
| Grade II [n]  | 7 | 5 | grades: |
| Grade ≥ III [n] NA | 20 | 75 | 0.2922 |
| PVL (CUS) [n]  |   |   | 0.709 |
| No | 126 | 110 |
| Yes | 3 | 4 |
| NA | 0 | 4 |
| BPD [n]  |   |   | 0.3425 |
| No | 115 | 97 |
| Yes | 14 | 18 |
| NA | 0 | 3 |
| NEC [n] |   |   | 0.0526 |
| No | 128 | 107 |
| Yes | 1 | 6 |
| NA | 0 | 5 |
| FIP [n]  |   |   | 0.5084 |
| No | 123 | 110 |
| Yes | 6 | 3 |
| NA | 0 | 5 |
| Injury score (MRI) | **(n=71)** | **(n=73)** | 0.75 |
| 0 | 52 | 51 |  |
| 1 | 0 | 2 |  |
| 2 | 4 | 6 |  |
| 3 | 1 | 1 |  |
| 4 | 7 | 5 |  |
| 5 | 2 | 1 |  |
| 6 | 1 | 2 |  |
| 7 | 0 | 1 |  |
| 8 | 2 | 3 |  |
| 11 | 1 | 0 |  |
| 16 | 0 | 1 |  |
| 20 | 1 | 0 |  |

SD, standard deviation; IVH, intraventricular haemorrhage; NA, not available; CUS, cranial ultrasound; PVL, periventricular leukomalacia; BPD, bronchopulmonary dysplasia; NEC, necrotizing enterocolitis, FIP, focal intestinal perforation; MRI, Magnetic resonance imaging