Supplementary material

Rationale for the use of multilevel modelling

The advantage of multilevel modelling over traditional measures, such as a repeated measures analysis of variance (MANOVA), is that this multilevel analysis calculated weighted means and their standard errors, taking the number of data points per infant into account. Especially for our population, with infants being discharged before 28 days of life, this allows for all infants to be included, but for infants with more data points weight more into the mean than infants with less data points. In multilevel modelling, one uses a t-test to assess differences between an estimated mean and the intercept and a chi-square test with one degree of freedom to assess differences between two estimated means.